

Attorney General wanted to ban the Pincher spy book

Havers forces MI5 about-turn

● Sir Michael Havers has forced Sir Robert Armstrong to tell the MI5 hearing that he was not involved in the decision to ban the Pincher book

● Doubts have also been raised over whether the Attorney General took responsibility for the Wright case.

● Mr Neil Kinnock has denied that his office was involved in secret contacts with Sydney lawyers involved in the case against the Government

● The Times has discovered that a circular was sent to all MI5 pensioners in 1981, reminding them of their obligation not to talk about their work

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister became the Opposition's prime target in the MI5 secrets affair last night after an ultimatum from Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, forced the Government into an extraordinary about-turn in Sydney.

On the insistence of Sir Michael, Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, told the New South Wales Supreme Court that, contrary to his earlier evidence, the Attorney General had not been involved in the decision in 1981 not to try to ban the book by Mr Chapman Pincher, *Their Trade is Treachery*.

He also revealed that if Sir Michael had been consulted his advice would have been that an attempt should have been made to stop the book.

The admissions came after Sir Michael had made it clear to Mrs Margaret Thatcher that he was not prepared to take the responsibility for the way decisions were taken about the Pincher book.

Some of Sir Michael's colleagues are in little doubt that he would have resigned had not Sir Robert corrected his evidence.

It also raised considerable speculation as to whether Sir Michael, although the action is in his name, was in favour of the decision to try to stop the book.

The revelation that he would have been in favour of trying to suppress the Pincher book was seized upon by Labour MPs to back the claim that the Government had been tacitly happy to see the Pincher book, with its allegation that Sir Roger Hollis, former head of MI5, was a Soviet mole, published to give the Prime Minister ammunition to take a firm grip on the security services.

According to Sir Robert's

evidence yesterday, Mrs Thatcher, Lord Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, and he wanted to stop the book. However what Sir Robert called "legal advisers" - not including Sir Michael - had agreed that there was no basis for restraining it.

If Mrs Thatcher had consulted her senior legal adviser she would have got the answer she apparently wanted.

Mr Peter Wright has claimed that it was suggested he should collaborate in the Pincher book by Lord Rothchild, a close friend of the Prime Minister.

Yesterday's twist in an affair that is increasingly dogging the Government came after repeated attempts by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, to discover from the Prime Minister in the Commons on Thursday whether Sir Michael had taken the decision on the Pincher book.

Mrs Thatcher's eventual reply that the Government was indivisible was assumed by Conservative MPs to have been the last straw for Sir Michael, who has complained to his friends over recent days how he has been wrongly

blamed for the way the affair has been handled.

It is known that Sir Michael and the Prime Minister met for a drink on Thursday night. Later that night, on the Prime Minister's instructions, the Cabinet Office got in touch with Sir Robert in Australia and told him that Sir Michael had not been involved in the decision in the Pincher book.

Sir Robert then went to the court where, in camera, he apologized for unwittingly misleading the court over Sir Michael's position.

It is the second major internal government controversy that Sir Michael has been involved in this year. It was on his insistence - and some reports have suggested that he threatened calling in the police to Downing Street - that the Prime Minister set up an inquiry into the leaking of the Solicitor General's letter during the Westland affair.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said that as in the Westland case "the law officers are objecting to being used as fall guys."

Booksellers last night reported a "substantial" increase in sales of Chapman Pincher's book on MI5.



Sir Michael Havers yesterday: Colleagues believe he was near to resignation. (Photograph: Alan Weller)

20 plane-loads of US weapons sent to Tehran

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

Twenty cargo aircraft loaded with American weapons and spare parts, including engines for tanks, arrived in Iran during Mr Robert McFarlane's secret visit to Tehran, according to very reliable sources in Iran. The planes landed at Qale Morgh military airbase near Mehrabad international airport in a mission so classified that a group of Iranian air traffic controllers were later arrested on the orders of the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament for fear that they would talk about the shipments.

The Times has also learned that:

● Five of the most prominent figures in Iran - including Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmad - arranged for Mr McFarlane's visit to Iran without even telling Ayatollah Khomeini himself. They included the President, the Prime Minister and the Parliament Speaker.

● Saudi Arabia played the key role in opening negotiations between Washington and Tehran that led to Mr McFarlane's visit to Iran;

● Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Parliament Speaker, only told Ayatollah Khomeini of Mr McFarlane's visit after the American envoy arrived in Iran. Khomeini refused to permit Rafsanjani and his colleagues to talk to Mr McFarlane - but he did authorize more junior officials to negotiate with Mr McFarlane at a Tehran hotel and act as liaison officers between the American delegation and more senior figures in the Iranian Government;

● In a bitter controversy that almost rivals the one now engulfing President Reagan, Hojatoleslam Hussein Ali Montazeri - Ayatollah Khomeini's chosen successor - sent an eight-page letter to the Iranian leader, demanding to know why the Islamic revolution had been besmirched by negotiations involving the Saudis, Washington and Tehran;

● So closely did the Iranians value Saudi Arabia's assistance that government officials in Tehran tipped off Saudi intelligence men when 130 Iranian pilgrims flew into Mecca carrying gelignite explosives in their baggage. The plot may have been concocted by Mehdi Hashemi - the man who controls pro-Iranian revolutionary groups abroad - but all the Iranians were arrested and President Khomeini of Iran later promised Saudi officials during the non-aligned summit in Hare that the culprit would be punished.

Details of the fierce arguments within the Iranian leadership are complex but they nonetheless mirror the political controversy now raging in Washington.

White House crisis 5
Leading article 21

Hashemi, it transpires, tried to wreck the negotiations when he found out that Iranian officials were negotiating arms deals with the Americans. Early in the autumn of this year, he wrote to Montazeri to tell him of the US-Iranian negotiations. Rafsanjani told Khomeini that he wanted Hashemi arrested - and received the Ayatollah's permission on condition that Montazeri was told of Hashemi's detention in advance.

Montazeri, apparently unaware that Khomeini already knew of the McFarlane mission, wrote a letter to the Iranian leader.

Monday

A deadly devotion



Love for Ian Brady helped make a killer of Myra Hindley. The M4 rapist was protected by his girlfriend's loyalty. So was Jeremy Bamber. Why is love so blind to evil?

Portfolio Gold

● Yesterday's £8,000 daily prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - double the usual amount because the previous day's competition was cancelled - was won outright by Mr R Wood of Alvestree, Derby. Details, page 3.

● There is £12,000 to be won today - £8,000 in the weekly competition and the £4,000 daily prize. Portfolio lists pages 24 and 25.

TIMES SPORT

Fans backed

The Scottish Football Association fined Celtic £5,000 but commended their supporters for their restraint during the club's Skol Cup final against Rangers last month in which there were seven bookings and a sending-off. Page 44

Tennis defeat

Britain's women tennis players suffered another humiliating defeat when they were beaten by France in the European Cup in Eindhoven. Rex Bellamy, page 42

TIMES BUSINESS

Dollar drops

The dollar fell on market worries about the Iranian arms affair. Sterling rose 60 points to \$1.4355 but was near all-time lows against the mark. Page 25

Gas dealing

As Wednesday's closing date for British Gas shares applications approaches, banks are sharpening competition in their share-dealing services. Family Money, pages 36-37

Silence warnings in 1981

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

As the row in the Sydney court continued yesterday over who was responsible for the decision not to ban the book, *Their Trade is Treachery*, by Mr Chapman Pincher in 1981, *The Times* can disclose that early in the same year a circular was sent out to all former members of MI5 from the director of establishment in the Security Service.

It warned them against talking to anyone about their past work. It was supposed to be a strong reminder to all MI5 pensioners of their contractual obligations. Mr Wright would have received the circular at his home in Tasmania.

A similar circular had been

sent out a few months earlier to all MI6 pensioners from the deputy director-general of MI6, who is now the head of the Secret Intelligence Service.

Both circulars, though regarded as fairly routine reminders, were clear evidence that the two arms of the British intelligence service were aware of the dangers of any serious leaks from members who had either left or retired. But there was no indication at that stage that MI5 or MI6 had prior knowledge of the planned book by Mr Pincher, which dealt at great length with both services.

Even when they got hold of

copies of the typewritten manuscript six weeks before the publication date, it still not absolutely clear. Although according to Mr Pincher, one of his former officers remarked that "they" pointed to Mr Wright. Those who saw the manuscript were absolutely staggered by the leakage of last year's information.

The director-general of MI5 at the time made his opinion quite clear that the book should be stopped. The head of MI6, who was then Sir Arthur "Dickie" Franks, now retired, must also have received a copy of the book.

Action plan to limit Aids risk

By Sheila Gann and Thomson Pratice

The Cabinet committee on Aids is considering the issue of free condoms as its leading defence against the spread of the disease.

Government sources made plain yesterday that the committee, made up of leading ministers, recognized that this was controversial. But tough decisions would have to be taken before Christmas to back up the £20 million public information campaign launched last week.

Condoms are available free at present from family planning clinics. The committee is attracted by the idea of making them much easier to obtain, for example, over the counter in chemists and health centres, because of their effectiveness in blocking the transmission of the disease.

A decision is expected next week on whether drug addicts should be given free disposable needles. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and his ministers are likely to win the fight for such a distribution, although some ministers fear it will damage the vigorous anti-drugs campaign.

The aim is to discourage addicts from sharing or re-using old needles which can easily become infected.

The most sensitive issue facing Lord Whitelaw's committee is screening, with the Children from five schools in Nottingham have had their swimming lessons cancelled because the council has organized "Gays Only" sessions at a leisure centre. Page 3

French campaign

argument turning against any form of compulsory testing in the near future.

Among the problems are what to do with those found to have the virus and the fact that a negative test does not mean someone will not pick it up the next day. But screening for those entering certain professions, such as the armed forces, is being actively considered.

● A clinic in east London dealing with Aids-infected patients has been given £250,000 by an anonymous donor to improve facilities.

Border angry as England pile on runs

England's impressive form in their Test cricket series against Australia continued on the first day of the second Test in Perth when they amassed a score of 272 for 2, with Chris Broad 146 not out and Mike Gatting 11 not out.

Allan Border, the Australian captain, was involved in an angry exchange with Bill Athey when the England batsman was given not out after an appeal for a catch behind the wicket.

Athey, who had made 26 at the time, was eventually dismissed for 96.

John Woodcock, page 44

MPs' wrangle over Channel tunnel persists

The Commons select committee yesterday completed examination of the Channel Tunnel Bill and published its report, but controversy over the £6.7 billion project and the parliamentary process chosen to review it persists.

Mr Nick Raynsford, a Labour member and leading critic, produced a minority report.

He criticized the "inadequacies" of the committee procedure and registered his dissent from four of the report's conclusions. Report, page 4

Thatcher pledge on CAP

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister promised nearly 40 Conservative MEPs yesterday that she would fight hard at next week's EEC summit for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the delegation from the European Democratic Group, said after the hour-long meeting that Mrs Thatcher had been "in total accord" with the MEPs, who want radical action to cut the EEC's £8.7 billion food mountains.

They believe the key is to take land out of production as a way of cutting surpluses and matching production with demand. Farmers would be compensated, but the cost of this would be far less than the enormous costs of storage being incurred under the present system.

Mr Vanunu: May face the death penalty.

Trap laid for drunk drivers

By Craig Seton

Special police squads in unmarked cars will spearhead a tough new Christmas blitz against drunk drivers in Solihull, the "stockbroker" suburb of Birmingham.

Superintendent Sidney Perks, Solihull's traffic chief, warned drivers: "We will use every legal opportunity to administer the breathalyzer."

Patrols of uniformed officers in unmarked cars could be doubled in the area at night over the Christmas and New Year period to catch drunk drivers returning home from pubs and parties.

The patrols would also be targeted on certain roads used by revellers returning home from public houses in country areas.

Supt Perks said: "I am not trying to fill police cells, but drunk driving is a very serious



Mr Vanunu: May face the death penalty.

offence, and we will have patrols in those areas and at those times when experience shows us that people are drinking and driving."

Police will not lie in wait outside public houses or carry out random breath tests, but be warned that his patrols would be specifically directed to detect drink driving offenders.

He pledged that any motorist stopped by a police officer for a moving traffic offence or because of an accident would be immediately breathalysed.

Using unmarked cars meant that some drunken drivers who thought they had "got away with it" would now get caught.

He said: "If motorists think that any unmarked car on the road might contain my officers, then hopefully it will act as a deterrent."

"We want people to think

there is a likelihood they will get caught if they drink and drive."

The Solihull crackdown on drinking and driving is part of the West Midlands police campaign.

In 1985, 6,256 drink-drive offences were detected in the force area, and traffic chiefs have warned that a policeman may stop a vehicle at any time if he suspects that the driver had been drinking alcohol.

In Solihull, Supt Perks said he would be prepared to use the "back calculation" method of determining how much alcohol a motorist had consumed.

The method was used by West Midlands police to convict a motorist who was below the legal limit when tested four hours and 20 minutes after a fatal accident.

Teachers' disarray over ban

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Teachers were in disarray last night after the news that the two unions which disavowed last weekend's Acaas deal are to be excluded from further talks with the local authority employers next Tuesday.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of one of the unions, the National Association of Head Teachers, has written to Acaas, the secretary of the Birmingham management panel to express his "outrage and hostility" to the move.

He described it last night as "a flagrant breach of the bargaining rights of my members."

He said: "The idea that the four signatories think they can change the package without bringing in the NAS/UWT and ourselves is just laughable."

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that the "secret meeting" was discriminatory treatment of the worst kind.

A spokesman for the Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board (LACSAB) said last night that the two unions were wrong to be reacting so angrily because Tuesday's date was not intended to be a fully-fledged negotiating session but more of a stock-taking exercise.

Nevertheless, the clash is a blow to any hopes that a revamped package between both sides might secure a greater consensus among the teachers than the one which obtains at present.

Today more than 2,000 delegates of the National Union of Teachers meet in Blackpool to decide whether to recommend a "yes" vote to its members on accepting the Acaas deal in a future ballot. Meanwhile, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday introduced a new Bill in the Commons which would give the Government unprecedented powers over teachers' pay and conditions.

CIA chief's role in the spotlight

From Michael Elson, Washington

Investigations by Congress and the Justice Department now widening to include a detailed study of the role played by the Central Intelligence Agency, as evidence mounts that Mr William Casey, its director, approached other countries to seek assistance for the Contras.

One of the central figures in the scandal, Colonel Oliver North, the maverick former military adviser at the National Security Council, was turned away as he tried to enter the White House on Thursday. During the week-end he reportedly shredded several key documents that may have indicated who else participated in the Contra funding operation.

Washington Post sources yesterday said inquiries are "in" on CIA involvement account "a Swiss bank loan payable to transfer Iran and on the agency's arms rebels."

Mr Casey asked other countries, including Israel, in 1984 whether they could secretly assist the Contras after Congress had cut off aid. Mr Casey says he was only aware of "gossip" about the diversion of money to the Contras. He has told Congress that the CIA helped set up a Swiss account to

Continued on page 24, col 4

Are you leaving your heirs more tax than capital?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing.

But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of the new Inheritance Tax when you die.

And that share can be quite dramatic.

For example, on an estate of £500,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life assurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be the largest beneficiary. If there were two children they would each get £99,425 but the Exchequer would take £101,150.

And it gets worse; above £517,000 the rate is a staggering 60%.

At Towry Law we can help you make plans to reduce your liability and pass on your accumulated wealth to your chosen beneficiaries.

Now think for a moment. I.H.T. does not just apply to the very rich. Anyone with an estate exceeding £150,000 could use some good advice.

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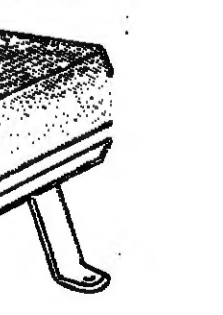
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NEWS SUMMARY

Mortar attack victims return

Residents and traders in Newry, Co Down, moved back into their shattered homes and business premises in the Edward Street area yesterday when the all-clear was given more than 20 hours after Thursday's mortar bomb attack.

The bomb, intended for the neighbouring police station, succeeded in injuring 39 people and damaging up to 100 houses and shops, some of which may have to be demolished.

Fourteen casualties remained in hospital, the three most seriously injured having been transferred to Belfast. They included a girl, aged four, under intensive care after surgery for a shrapnel wound to the head.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office, described the attack as barbaric and irresponsible. "The IRA know these weapons are inaccurate."

Mr Peter Mountford-Smith, the committee chairman, said yesterday: "Reconciliation will be our overriding aim, but if we find indisputable evidence of racial harassment and the situation cannot be resolved any other way we will seek immediate action through the courts either for an eviction order or an injunction."

The committee is also increasing measures to support victims of racial attacks.

Miners end ban 730 tyre jobs cut

Coal miners in South Wales voted yesterday to end their four-month ban on overtime after receiving £350 in backdated pay.

Members of the National Union of Mineworkers were paid the money this week after their national executive committee decided, against the advice of Mr Arthur Scargill, to accept amendments to their pension scheme.

The ban cost British Coal about £3.4 million.

Avon Rubber, the only remaining British-owned independent tyre producer, is to cut 730 jobs at its Melksham and Chippenham plants in Wiltshire.

The 2,300 workers at the Melksham tyre plant will bear the brunt of the reductions, as only about 100 are employed at Chippenham where products include the "skirts" for hovercraft.

Avon hopes to achieve the cuts by next June.

Abbado to leave

Another London orchestra faces the loss of its leader, following Claudio Abbado's decision to resign as music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Amid widespread complaints of London concert musicians being underpaid and overworked, it has emerged that Claudio Abbado is expected to leave the London Symphony Orchestra when his current five-year contract expires in 1988.

Myra Hindley

Myra Hindley has offered the train fare from Manchester to the High Court for the 12-year-old boy police believe was a victim of the 1975 murder of Ian Brady.

Her offer, a former prison governor who has been visiting Giller's year. In the Channel 4 programme *Seven Days* being shown tonight Mr Timms will say he thinks Hindley has become a penitent who is truly sorry for the anguish she has caused.

But last night Mrs Winifred Johnson said she would not accept the offer to meet Hindley unless she became convinced it would produce information on where her son is buried.

Homeless hit by 'political posturing'

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, yesterday criticized local authorities which had ignored Government help to renovate council estates and assist the homeless because of their "political posturing".

Addressing the *Building Communities* conference in London, he named the London boroughs of Brent, Camden and Lambeth as those which had "spurned

invitations" to apply for money through the Urban Housing Renewal Unit for special schemes to renovate estates and bring empty flats back into use for the homeless.

He said that while those authorities had rejected help, other councils such as Newham, Greenwich and Tower Hamlets - "who are less ready to strike political postures and are more committed to helping homeless people in their area" - were showing themselves ready and able to

take advantage of the resources offered.

Mr Patten announced that the Unit was to be renamed Estate Action, and said that financial assistance was to be increased under the scheme by 30 per cent in its second year, from £30 million to £75 million.

"There is no magic wand which we can wave over our rundown estates. There are no overnight solutions. But Estate Action is beginning to make a real impact and with

its increased resources much can be done."

He said that life for tenants on many of Britain's housing estates had reached a "crisis of confidence". Many people had lost faith in the ability of council estates to provide a decent home to live in, or a community in which they would like their children to grow up. The huge estates of the 1960s and 1970s, built to compete in the housing numbers game, were designed, built and too often

managed without proper regard for the desires and preferences of the most important group - the consumers.

Mr Patten emphasized the Government's belief in the need to involve the community in planning and managing their homes and environment, and said that Estate Action's approach included Community Refurbishment Schemes, in which jobless residents were employed to carry out improvements on their own estates.

Cod ban is lifted after Irish pact

By Kenneth Gossling

A ban on cod fishing in the Channel, imposed because quotas had been exceeded, has been lifted after a deal with the Irish Republic. The accord came after a week of protests by Britain's rod and line anglers.

"They had underfished their quota, we had overfished, so a swap was done," the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday.

The ban until the end of this year was imposed only a week ago and its lifting was announced in the Commons by Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, only hours after he had told *World at One* listeners on BBC Radio 4 that he understood the frustration and difficulties of Britain's fishermen.

"We are working extremely hard," he said, "to see if we can get a little bit of quota from the Irish."

On the same programme, a Newhaven charterer, Mr Denis O'Kennedy, said he stood to lose £1,000 in lost bookings to next April. Mr Bob Page, of the Sea Anglers' Federation, said he had written 500 letters to members warning them of the ban.

Rod and line anglers, he said, had been unaware that they were affected by the ban.

The ban, which comes off from Tuesday, covered an area from Hylbe in Kent to Fishguard in west Wales.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that Britain's fishermen had come to the end of their annual quota "rather sharply".

It had been found possible, after the minister had tried to see what could be done in view of the frustration he knew was being experienced, to win an additional 200 tonnes from the Irish.

The agreement with Ireland was reached as Mr Gummer was speaking in an emergency adjournment debate initiated by Mr Anthony Nelson, Conservative MP, who had complained of the effect on the livelihood of fishermen in his Chichester constituency.

Mr Nelson said the news would be received with great joy by his fishermen constituents and all others along the south coast.

"I am delighted," he told the minister, "at the way and the speed in which you have wrestled this change and swap. This is very good news indeed."

Correction

A report in The Friday Paper yesterday stated that Britain had withdrawn from UNICEF. This is not the case, and we apologize for the error.

Baker moves to halt Brent McGoldrick hearing

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, paved the way yesterday for direct government intervention to halt Brent Council's disciplinary hearing against Miss Maureen McGoldrick.

In a letter to the left-wing authority, he demanded details by next Wednesday of the precise charge against her, and an explanation as to why it had decided to proceed with the hearing in spite of a statement in the Court of Appeal by Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, that he could not believe it would do any such thing.

Mr Baker has also sought to find out on what basis there might be an investigation into the behaviour of some school governors and parents in the case.

He could decide to apply to the High Court for authority to direct Brent to abandon the hearing under Section 68 of the 1944 Education Act, which empowers him to intervene in the affairs of local education authorities where they are using, or about to use, their powers unreasonably.

Miss McGoldrick was suspended from her job as headmistress of Sudbury Infants School last summer after allegedly telling a council official that she did not want any more black staff.

She was reinstated after the High Court decided that the council could not conduct an investigation when she had

been cleared by the school governors. That ruling was overturned by the Court of Appeal, but in doing so, Sir John made clear his hope that Brent would not proceed with the disciplinary hearing.

The Labour-controlled authority's decision to proceed regardless has been criticized by Mr Neil Kinnock and Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, who appealed on behalf of the shadow cabinet for the hearing to be dropped.

No more money for teachers

No more money would be made available to settle the teachers' dispute, Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday.

Mr MacGregor said in Norfolk that the £550 million cost of the Government's present offer was "very high indeed" and would mean increases of up to 4 per cent in local authority rates next year. This was over and above the "substantial" contribution made by central government.

"I hope that all teachers will recognize that we had to strike a balance between a fair offer to the teaching profession and a fair bill to taxpayers and ratepayers," he said.

Mr MacGregor said that the offer would give the average teacher a 25 per cent rise in 18 months, "very much more than most other people can expect to get."

He is likely, however, to be disappointed by the offer, which will stay in the High Court for some time.

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Mrs Margaret Thatcher greeting the Russian dissident, Mr Yuri Orlov, at No 10 yesterday.

Salvage operation called off

By Michael McCarthy

Prospects look increasingly slender this weekend of salvaging the stricken freighter *Kowloon Bridge*, which has been aground for the past five days on rocks off the south-west coast of Ireland.

The Dutch tug companies which have been trying to free the huge ore-carrier from Stag's Head rock off west Cork yesterday abandoned the operation, saying the ship had become too damaged to recover.

This morning they are expected to disconnect their tow lines to the vessel, which is split into two.

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Jobless 'here to stay'

The problem of unemployment would inevitably continue "for a substantial period", Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said last night (Sheila Gunn writes).

Criticizing Labour's plans, Mr Hurd said that unemployment would not be overcome by any irresponsible explosion in public spending; any move towards protectionism; or recreating inefficiency, subsidies and overmanning in industry.

He told Oxfordshire Conservatives: "The welcome downward movement in unemployment in recent months will only be sustained and accelerated by a continuing determination to control inflation."

TV helps Midlands jobless

Last night television in the Midlands gives about 100,000 unemployed the chance to look for work. After the late night film or final programme of the night, Central Independent Television transmits details of job vacancies in the East and West Midlands and in other parts of Britain.

The station claims that its Jobfinder service, the first of its kind in Britain, has proved so successful that similar one hour broadcasts have begun in the early morning before the start of normal transmissions.

So far, the service has secured work for 126 unemployed Midlandsers. The latest to secure a full-time work was as a clerk in an unemployment exchange.

Three North Sea oil fields shut by leak

Nearly 15 per cent of Britain's North Sea oil production was halted yesterday.

Three of the biggest offshore oil fields remained shut as divers tried to find the cause of a North Sea oil slick.

But fears of pollution receded as the slick, covering 10 square miles, began to break up as the south-west wind pushed it away from the British coast.

The oil was leaking from part of the 130-mile-long submarine pipeline network which runs to the Occidental oil terminal on the Orkney island of Flotta from the Piper, Claymore and Tartan platforms. The smaller Scarpa field near-by was also hit.

The pipeline would usually carry nearly 350,000 barrels of oil a day - worth more than £5 million.

A diving support ship, *Deepwater 1*, was on station at the scene to allow divers with video cameras to carry out an

underwater survey of the pipelines.

They eventually located the leak at a point where the Claymore pipeline connects with the main pipe to Flotta.

Occidental, who own the Piper and Claymore fields, said the pipe had now been filled with seawater.

The company said a helicopter flight had confirmed that oil was still visible.

Last night the divers were trying to determine the seriousness of the repairs, about 100 miles east of the Scottish mainland, to establish when production can recommence.

The Occidental oil terminal, which employs 300 people in Orkney, celebrates its tenth anniversary this month. Since it opened the terminal has handled more than one billion barrels of oil.

The Tartan field is owned by Texaco.

Radio launch

Jenni Murray, presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*, is to launch a Saturday edition of the station's early-morning *Today* programme in January.

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Tobacco firms' TV hoardings curbed

Tobacco companies will be ordered to take down many hoardings around sports grounds next month to reduce the cigarette adverts seen by television viewers (Sheila Gunn writes).

The use on sports equipment of certain colours, used to represent particular brands of cigarettes, will also be banned.

The new code governing the coverage of tobacco-sponsored sport, to replace the one that ran out in 1985, is expected to be announced by Mr Richard Tracey, Minister for Sport, before Christmas. It results from consultations between the Government, the Tobacco Advisory Council

and the television companies and is seen as one step towards cutting down on the use of televised sport to get around the ban on cigarette advertisements.

But the broadcasters have been left in no doubt that sterner measures will follow if the Government believes them necessary.

Up to 20 per cent of the advertisements will have to go under the new code. At present racecourses are allowed three signs of no more than 360sq ft; show jumping, up to six signs of 90sq ft maximum; and snooker, two signs of up to 24 sq ft - with similar controls for other sports.

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All garments subject to availability.

Radio links to be used in crime crackdown on London Underground

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Plans for a crackdown on crime in the most dangerous stations on the London Underground system were disclosed yesterday.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, announced last month that the Government was to provide £15 million during the next three years to combat crime on the Underground, and yesterday a detailed study was published. This will be the basis of the campaign to combat it.

Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, said top priority would be a crackdown on robberies along the southern section of the Northern Line between Chiswick and Tooting Broadway, plus a drive against violence and theft at Oxford Circus.

Dr Tony Ridley, chairman and chief executive of London Underground, said that about £5 million of the £15 million would provide radio facilities for police at 42 key stations. Other measures to be taken include installing more and improved closed circuit television equipment, providing passenger alarms on platforms, making staff more accessible to assist the public,

and improving lighting in tunnels along which pedestrians walk.

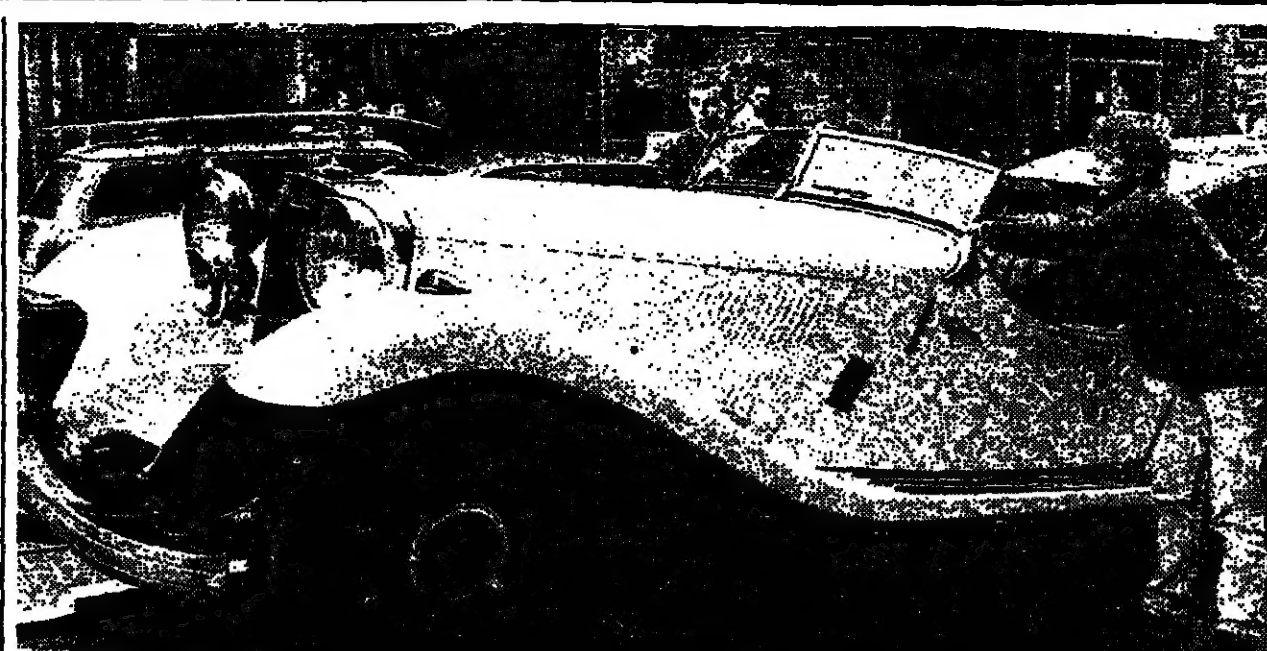
He said that in the long run measures identified in the report might cost £30 million, but he regarded the Government's provision of £15 million during the next three years as "a rapid and generous response" to the report.

Dr Ridley emphasized that there was no evidence that the Underground was significantly more dangerous than other places, but he accepted that there was a public perception that it was.

In 1985 there were about 1,600 violent crimes, out of a total of more than 15,000 crimes of all sorts on the Underground, but this had to be compared with the 725 million passenger journeys made in that year.

The likelihood of anyone encountering violent crime on the Underground was very small. Out of 250 stations, 140 had no crimes at all last year. The report shows that 75 per cent of robbery victims were male, and comments that "this runs contrary to the popular belief that women are at risk from attacks of this sort".

Dr Ridley said British



A 1933 Mercedes-Benz 380 Supercharged Roadster outside Christie's showroom in London (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

£60,000 tag on a veteran left in barn

A vintage car which has been standing in a barn near Buckinghamshire since 1957 is expected to be sold for more than £60,000 at an auction next month to mark the centenary of the motor car.

The owner of the two-door Mercedes cabriolet 340K, Mr John Fraser, aged 77, from Denham, Buckinghamshire, said that his father bought the car in 1935. "I can remember going to pick it up from the Mercedes depot opposite

Battersea power station, in exchange for two crisp, white £1,000 notes," he said.

Mr Fraser, who has been the only person to drive the car, said that selling it will be like parting with an old friend. "One of the best trips I remember was to Monte Carlo in 1946 just after the war. The cabriolet was the ideal car for such a trip," he said.

But the car became too expensive to run because it did only eight or 10 miles

to the gallon. "It will be nice to see it out on the road again," Mr Fraser said.

The car is being sold by Christie's at a sale which is being held with the support of Daimler-Benz at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu on December 8.

Mr Robert Brooks, director of vintage cars at Christie's, said that many people around the country who owned or had inherited vintage cars did not realize their value.

US interest in BBC scheme

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

At least one large American corporation is understood to be considering sponsoring programmes on the BBC if the Government approves a scheme to allow it.

The sponsorship proposal, which is supported by senior BBC management, calls for the corporation to transmit acknowledgements when commercial organizations fund programmes made by independent producers.

The plan would guarantee sponsors a visual and spoken acknowledgement of their support, but would prohibit the mentioning of specific products or lines of business.

It would benefit the BBC by making new funds available for prestige productions, and would benefit companies by allowing them to associate themselves with such programmes.

But a BBC official yesterday said that sponsorship would

have to be controlled rigorously, to prevent the abuses which he said have become common in the United States.

In America, critics claim that relaxed guidelines governing sponsorship of the nominally non-commercial Public Broadcasting Service have resulted in a "petroleum broadcasting service" financed by oil companies.

The situation arose after sponsors successfully fought to weaken guidelines similar to those now being considered by the BBC.

The BBC proposal, which was accepted in principle by its board of governors this week, may require a change in the corporation's licence, which says it may not transmit "any sponsored programme".

However, the licence does not specify the meaning of the word sponsorship, and the BBC routinely transmits commercially sponsored sport

and entertainment events.

Corporation executives are to meet Home Office officials next month to sound the Government's view.

The BBC yesterday said that the proposal was an attempt to help independent production companies which have been seeking more access to its schedules.

Independent producers yesterday expressed scepticism at the plan. Mr Paul Styles, director of the Independent Programme Producers Association, said sponsorship carried with it problems of editorial control, and could not fully substitute for commissions from the BBC and ITV companies. "We are very wary," he said.

A sponsorship proposal similar to that now being considered was rejected by the BBC governors about five years ago.

Historic house to stay open

Hammerwood House in East Grinstead, West Sussex, bought, restored and opened to the public three years ago by its present owner, survived a Court of Appeal attempt by local residents to force its closure.

The house, grade I listed, is at the centre of a dispute between its owner, Mr David Pinnegar, and residents outside.

The court yesterday refused to grant residents an injunction forcing the closure of the house.

Lord Justice May, sitting with Lord Justice Woolf and Sir Ronald Auld, said that the house is open and thus attracts traffic whereas in its derelict state it had not, did not constitute a breach of Mr Pinnegar's right of way.

Patient was given 300 'Jaffe juice' injections

By Michael Horne

Dr Joseph Jaffe, the hypnotherapist accused of serious professional misconduct, agreed yesterday that he has no psychiatric qualifications.

He told a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing in London that during a five-year period of treatment he gave 300 injections of "Jaffe juice" to a patient.

This is the allegedly addictive concoction with which he injected Mr George Waterson, of Altrincham, Cheshire, aged 49, the former owner of a bicycle business, who claims that the doctor wrecked his personal and business life.

During the five years of treatment Dr Jaffe told the hearing that he saw Mr Waterson, who came to him for treatment for business and domestic stress, on about 450 occasions for which he

charged about £7,500 - denying the allegation that he had received up to £60,000.

Dr Jaffe, aged 60, who has consulting rooms in Manchester, denies four charges of serious professional misconduct.

He said he did not know that the barbiturate, Bristol, which he used in his concoction was addictive. But after hearing the evidence of an expert in anaesthetics during the hearing he would no longer use it.

Mrs Charmaine Owen, aged 35, Dr Jaffe's medical secretary, denied that she had ever had physical intimacy with Mr Waterson.

Mr Waterson had earlier said that she had wanted to seduce him and wore see-through blouses.

The hearing continues.

Prison for threats to stores

Anne Marie Carroll, aged 34, a famine relief worker, of Wallasey, Wirral, who was convicted of blackmail at Liverpool Crown Court on November 13, and remanded for psychiatric reports, was jailed for three years yesterday.

She had threatened to poison food and to disclose that staff at a supermarket had AIDS. She planted a fake bomb in the Birkenhead branch of the Asda supermarket chain, and demanded £220,000 from Sainsbury's, Asda and Greenhall's brewery.

She had at first denied all the charges but during her evidence admitted being responsible for the threats.

Judge Naylor said the gravity of her offences was that people believed her threats.

Aids scare halts swim sessions

By Craig Seton

Fear of the disease, Aids, has led five schools to cancel swimming lessons for pupils at a leisure centre where the local council has introduced private swimming sessions for homosexuals and lesbians.

Lifeguards and pool attendants at the Victoria Leisure Centre in Nottingham are also boycotting the "gays only" swimming sessions on Sunday nights.

The private sessions were introduced six weeks ago, by the Labour-controlled city council, because of alleged harassment of homosexuals and lesbians when the pool is open to the general public.

Yesterday Mr Keith Dudley, chairman of the governors of Manservants Pierpoint comprehensive school, said: "People are frightened. On Monday morning about 20 parents came to the school and they said they were not sending their children there because the gays were using it on Sunday night."

"I have two children myself and I feel the welfare of our children must come first."

Mrs Maria Demkiw, of Bakewell, Nottingham, whose son attends the Jesse Boot junior school, which has cancelled swimming lessons at the leisure centre, said: "There could be blood about in the water."

"My son goes swimming four times a week, either with his club or with his school, and he often comes home with cut feet or ankles because the tiles at the pool are not very good."

"The feeling is very strong on this issue in the area. Lifeguards and pool attendants are refusing to man the sessions for homosexuals because, they said, they were not consulted."

The sessions are also to be challenged by officials of the 360-strong Nottingham Swimming Club.

A spokesman for Nottingham City Council said gays had been harassed in the past and the special sessions had been organized for them to create a nicer atmosphere where there were "no jeers".

He confirmed that five schools were boycotting the pool but said the fears about Aids were unfounded.

There had been no reports anywhere of the disease being transmitted in swimming pool water, which was thoroughly disinfected with chlorine which killed bacteria and viruses.

Soldier is given life for garrison murder of girl

An Army captain's beautiful teenage daughter was brutally killed by a soldier on guard duty, a court was told yesterday.

John Hardie, aged 18, from Lanark in Scotland, was sentenced to life imprisonment at Teesside Crown Court after pleading guilty to the murder of Julie Harrison, aged 16, of Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, on June 22.

The girl was walking to her home in French Road at the garrison after a night out with friends when Hardie, who was supposed to be guarding lorries, dragged her into a field and strangled her with her shoulder bag strap, Mr John Hitchen, for the prosecution, said.

After her death he sexually abused her body and filled her mouth with grass.

Referring to a police statement claim by Hardie that the girl had led him on, Mr Hitchen said the girl, who had lived at Army installations all her life, was "sexually experienced to a degree which is perhaps unusual for her age."

Inquiry on patient's death

By Jill Sherman

A hospital inquiry has been carried out into the death of a teenage girl who suffered brain damage while he was prepared for a kidney transplant operation.

David Aldridge, aged 19, an office clerk, died at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on November 2. He had been in a coma in the intensive care unit since the operation was carried out on September 13.

Results of an internal inquiry by the hospital's senior management and medical staff have been passed to the coroner. But at the opening of the inquiry on Thursday, Professor Austin Gresham, a Home Office pathologist, said that Mr Aldridge, of West Mill, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, suffered brain damage because of lack of oxygen at the time of the preparation for the transplant.

Mr David Astley, the hospital's unit general manager, confirmed that Mr Aldridge had been an outpatient receiving renal dialysis treatment at the hospital, before the transplant was carried out. A full inquiry was heard after Mr Robert Starnale Burrows, the coroner, has finished investigating the case.

Shop 'had no stock of solvent'

A newsgang accused of supplying typewriter correction fluid thinner to a boy who died after a snuffing session yesterday denied that he swapped the teenager's radio for bottles of the solvent.

Mr Chandrakant Patel, aged 35, told magistrates at Tower Bridge, south London, that Lee Kendall came into his shop about two weeks before his death and asked if he wanted to buy his radio.

Mr Patel said he refused at first but the boy pleaded with him.

Mr Patel lent him £3 and kept the radio as security. A few days later the boy returned the money and took back the radio.

But 10 or 12 days after that he came back and asked for a second £3 loan.

Mr Patel denied that Lee, of Hazel Way, Remondouy, bought three or four bottles of liquid correction fluid.

Mr Patel, a newsgang in Dutton Road, Southwark, south London, said he had no liquid correction thinner in stock in the week before the boy's death on August 8.

Earlier the boy's mother, Maria, aged 39, told the court that she confronted Mr Patel the day after Lee's death. Her daughter, Debbie, allegedly saw bottles of thinner.

The case continues.

Man who shot gull fined £680

A video tape recording of a BBC television documentary on so-called "Hooray Henries" was used yesterday to convict a man of illegally shooting a seagull during a fishing trip off the Scottish mainland.

John Backland, aged 39, was one of four businessmen whose abortive efforts to catch a record-breaking halibut in the Pentland Firth were filmed as part of the BBC 2 40 Minutes series.

Not only did the quartet, said to earn £250,000 each a year in the City, fail to land any fish, but they also set off considerable anger among viewers.

Mr David Hargrove, prosecutor fiscal, told the Sheriff Court at Wick in Caithness yesterday that the BBC's switchboard was clogged with callers complaining about the party's antics during the screening in February. Both he and the police also received complaints.

The court was told that the 12-hour footage was brought aboard deck after the fishing efforts of the party had proved "singularly unsuccessful".

Mr Ewan Stewart, the sheriff and the court, watched part of the programme where Backland was seen shooting the gull to wild applause from his companions.

Mr Hargrove said that, after the public outcry, Backland's firm of commodity brokers folded and his City friends helped police trace him.

In a letter pleading guilty Backland, of Chadwick Road, London, asked the court to forgive his "silly and childish" behaviour.

Backland was fined a total of £680.

12 years for raping girl of 11

A man who dragged a girl aged 11 from her tent at a Guides' camp and raped her, was jailed for 12 years, at Stafford Crown Court, yesterday.

Mr Justice French told Stuart Tomlinson, aged 24, an unemployed hotel porter, he had considered imposing a life sentence.

Tomlinson, of Tuppenhurst Lane, Handsacre, Staffordshire, had denied rape, but was convicted by a jury after a week-long trial which ended on November 19.

The attack happened in June 1985, two months after Tomlinson, originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, was released from a 12-month sentence, imposed at Teesside Crown Court, for unlawful sexual intercourse with girls aged 14.

He dragged the girl, still in her sleeping bag, from a tent she was sharing with four other Guides at Beaudesert Camp on Cannock Chase, Staffordshire. He was armed with a knife and dressed in black.

The judge, who had delayed passing sentence until yesterday for a psychiatric report to be prepared, said Tomlinson had not shown the slightest regret or contrition, or any insight into the offence.

Mr Martin Wilson QC, for the defence, said a psychiatrist had concluded that Tomlinson had not yet matured, but said he should mature in time.

After Tomlinson was convicted last week, the girl's father criticized the legal system which took 17 months to bring his daughter's attacker to justice.

He declined to comment on yesterday's sentence.

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Portfolio - Gold - Engineer's 'fantastic' win

A chartered mechanical engineer is to put the £28,000 he won as the sole Portfolio Gold prize winner yesterday to good use.

"I will update my gramophone, increase my donation to the church hall and go on holiday next year," Mr Richard Wood, of Allestree, Derby, said.

Mr Wood, aged 51, who has played Portfolio Gold since it started in The Times, said that he could not believe his luck.

He said: "It is fantastic. It is a novel experience."

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Danger of additives in beer

Additives used in brewing beer can harm drinkers and, in extreme cases, even kill them, the Campaign for Real Ale claimed yesterday.

An article in the campaign's newspaper, *What's Brewing*, by Mr Roger Proitz, a former editor of the *Good Beer Guide*, says that people who have asthma and other breathing problems, sinus disorders, skin rashes, or who are allergic to certain cereals, can suffer ill effects from drinking beers in which additives have been employed to produce a foamy head, extra clarity, or to lengthen shelf life.

In the United States, the article says, more than 40 drinkers died of heart attacks when some brewers used cobalt sulphate in beer to encourage a foaming head.

Spy couple to appeal

The East German couple jailed for 10 years last July for espionage, are seeking reductions in their sentences.

On Monday Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, will preside over applications by Reinhard and Sonja Schulze, both aged 36, for leave to appeal against the sentences imposed by Mr Justice Michael Davies at the Central Criminal Court.

Channel tunnel clashes persist as Labour critic adds key riders to Bill

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Commons select committee examining the Channel Tunnel Bill finally completed its task with the publication of a report yesterday, but with no sign of abatement in the controversy surrounding either the project or the chosen parliamentary process.

Mr Nick Raynsford, a Labour member who has become the standard-bearer of the £6.7 billion project's opponents, simultaneously produced a minority report criticizing the "inadequacies" of the committee procedure, and registering his dissent from the report's conclusions.

He also served notice that he will continue his opposition when the Bill passes to a standing committee, of which he will again be a member, next Tuesday.

The broad findings of the committee were announced on November 5, but Mr Raynsford has since succeeded in opposing one last-minute alteration, and in implementing another, thereby keeping alive two particularly contentious issues.

At a private meeting the committee had been asked to approve an amendment incorporating its decision to back the disputed northern access road to the huge Cheriton terminal which also suggested that the amendment should not be overturned "at any subsequent stage of the Bill's passage through Parliament". Mr Raynsford succeeded in

having that rider voted down. He also succeeded in adding to an amendment allowing 3.75 million cubic metres of excavated spoil to be dumped on a large platform at the foot of Shakespeare Cliff a sentence expressing the committee's concern at the proposal and a recommendation that alternative sites are re-examined. This will be seized upon in the Bill's later stages.

In addition, Mr Raynsford has already tabled three amendments to the Bill for consideration by the standing committee.

These would require that the trains running through the tunnel be operated by either British Rail or SNCF, thereby precluding any future privatization of the rail service; that the use of Waterloo as the London terminal should be deleted from the Bill, thereby necessitating a full public inquiry before it could be used; and that the volume of spoil to be dumped at Shakespeare Cliff be limited to 1.85 million cubic metres.

In his minority report yesterday Mr Raynsford gave vent to widespread criticism of the committee procedure, arguing that it had rushed its business, had failed on some issues to take sufficient evidence to form proper judgments, and had denied petitioners the same opportunities to present their evidence that they would have had at a public inquiry.

However, Mr Alexander Fletcher, the committee chair-

man, defended the decision to have the legislation examined by a select committee, rather than a public inquiry, and suggested that this procedure should be adopted for future projects of this kind.

The committee had given itself ample time to hear the evidence, and while not all of the nearly 5,000 petitioners had been heard, all the arguments had. "Five thousand petitions do not mean 5,000 issues," he argued.

But he did criticize the Government for not challenging the right of certain petitioners to give evidence. As a result "we heard a great many cases either about matters outside our jurisdiction or put forward by people who were not specially or directly affected by the proposals in the Bill".

The committee was not charged, however, with examining matters of public policy, and these will be looked at by the standing committee.

Foremost among them is the question of safety, with the tunnel's opponents arguing persistently that passengers should be separated from their vehicles in the tunnel.

That would add millions to the project's cost, and seriously erode its time advantage over the rival ferry services.

Last night Mr Robin Grove-White, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, denounced the committee's investigations as "cavalier, superficial and blatantly unfair".



The staff who kept Dumfries station in the Scottish Borders spotlessly clean showing off their Best Station 1986 certificate won in a British Rail competition: (from left) Mr John Aitken (12 years' service); Mr David Anderson (30); Mr John MacCulloch (18); Mr Archie MacGeoch (24); Mr Les Prince, the traffic manager (37); Mr David Bell (33); Miss Veronica Richardson (34); Mr Jimmy Jackson (27); Mr Joe Wallace (43); and Mr Ronnie MacRae (8) (Photograph: Arthur Foster).

Business planes face Heathrow ban

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Company aircraft and air taxis could be banned from using the overcrowded runway at Gatwick and Heathrow under new regulations due to come into force next year.

Amid mounting concern among air taxi operators and pressure from companies owning business aircraft, a government minister yesterday flew into four small airfields around the capital in an attempt to find them alternative accommodation.

Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Aviation, said as he left Northolt airfield, west London to visit Farnborough, Hampshire, Biggin Hill, Kent, and Hatfield, Hertfordshire: "It is going to be increasingly difficult for business aircraft to get into Heathrow and Gatwick because of the pres-

sure of scheduled and charter flights. My priority now is to find alternative accommodation for what is a very important sector of the economy."

But during his tour he was told that many companies now operating business aircraft could face bankruptcy while alternative facilities were developed.

Mr Ian Sutherland, managing director of IDS Aircraft Ltd, based at Heathrow, told the minister: "The crunch will come in April when the BAA will have the power to ban us altogether. If they do, we will simply go out of business."

At every airport Mr Spicer visited he found problems for business use.

● Northolt. Plans for a business enclave at the nearest RAF base to the capital are bedevilled by security restrictions on foreign aircraft and a

planning dispute over a new access road. Furthermore, a maximum of 28 civil movements a day will be allowed.

● Farnborough. A new £60 million development for a business park and aviation centre will not be ready for at least two years and the airfield is regarded as too far from London to attract many visiting businessmen.

● Biggin Hill. An aggressive marketing campaign to persuade businessmen to use the airfield, which is owned by Bromley council, is meeting resistance from operators because it is in uncontrolled airspace and road connections with London are said by many to be "unacceptable".

● Hatfield has the best facilities and the greatest potential for expansion. But it is owned by British Aerospace, who use it for testing new aircraft, and

businessmen with aircraft now based at Heathrow have a strong resistance to moving north of the capital.

The Air Transport Operators Association, which represents 65 companies who fly business aircraft, said: "ATOAs must be protected against the powerful airline lobby and given rights of access at all times to Heathrow and Gatwick. There is no suitable alternative airport at present, and the decision to give the British Airports Authority power to ban us has already done serious damage to British industry."

Mr Spicer said after his tour that he was impressed at the amount of work going on to improve facilities. He practically ruled out proposals from some operators for a dedicated business airport.

Private firms may double clampings

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The number of wheel clamping of illegal parkers in the original London zone is expected to double when it will be done from Monday by two private contractors.

Parking Protection and Highway Maintenance Services will divide the zone which includes parts of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea.

Parking Protection is a security firm and Highway Maintenance Services a traffic management company, arranging contraflows on motorways, painting yellow lines and doing other work.

One police officer will work with each of 14 wheel clamping teams, making a total of 20 police to cover from 7am to 12.30am.

The Metropolitan police expect that the number of wheel clampings within the zone could rise from a previous maximum of 300 a day to between 600 and 700. Until now there have been only seven teams.

The Metropolitan police said: "It could mean an annual increase of vehicles being wheel clamped from 40,000 to about 100,000."

As before, a police officer will identify an offending vehicle with a parking ticket: fee £12, or if not paid or disputed within 28 days, £18.

The officer will then tell the contravention - to put on the clamp and the statutory notice will be placed on the vehicle.

The scheme will be expanded next year to include more firms doing contracts and a communications centre.

Commander Neil Dickens of territorial operations, crime and traffic branch at Scotland Yard, said yesterday: "It has been estimated that there are some 350,000 illegal parking acts in London on every working day."

Sale room

Bidders disagree with Mahler valuations

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Two important musical manuscripts by Mahler came up for sale at Sotheby's yesterday and the bidders disagreed with the auctioneers about which was the more distinguished.

The manuscript of his early song-cycle, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, sold for £198,000 (estimate £140,000 - £160,000) to Otto Haas, a London dealer specializing in the 19th-century manuscript, while the *Unfinished* manuscript, the original version of the first movement of the "Resurrection" Symphony, was left unsold at £130,000 (estimate £140,000 - £180,000).

Prices for music manuscripts appeared buoyant. A Mozart aria manuscript made £33,000 (estimate £30,000 - £40,000). The manuscript of "Schelomo", Ernest Bloch's most famous work, made £49,500 (estimate £50,000 - £55,000).

The two-day sale of books and manuscripts made £1,044,769 with 24 per cent unsold. An 1882 six-page letter from Gaudin to Paul

Sérisius, including a sketch of Gaudin's painting "Vairoumami tei oa", was offered on Thursday afternoon but left unsold at £20,000 (estimate £40,000 - £50,000).

Christie's has demonstrated how seriously German buyers take their nineteenth-century school during the past two days. Carl Spitzweg is the most beloved Munich genre painter of the Biedermeier period. A characteristic little character, "Der Philosoph", depicting an old man seated on the base of a statue reading a book through a glass, secured £121,000 (estimate £80,000 - £100,000) yesterday.

On Thursday a preparatory drawing by Friedrich Overbeck for one of his frescoes in the Casino Massimo sold for £68,200 where Christie's had only estimated £800 to £1,200.

The other outstanding picture in yesterday's sale was a portrait of Nijinsky in *Les Orientales* by Jacques Emile Blanche which sold for £110,000 (estimate £100,000 plus) to Danny Katz, a London sculpture dealer.

Premature baby given lethal drug

The parents of a premature baby who died, aged three weeks, after being injected with the wrong drug, are to start High Court proceedings against a health authority and a doctor, for negligence.

The baby, called Leon, died when he was given a lethal dose of potassium chloride while in the intensive care unit at King's College Hospital, south London, on September 9. He should have been given sodium chloride.

The father, Mr Maurice Philon, aged 28, an electronics assembler, and the mother, Miss Angela Berrie, aged 31, a bank clerk, who live at Southwick, south London, are to sue the Camberwell Health Authority and Dr Tariq Massoud.

Dr Massoud told an inquest at Southwark yesterday: "I did not read the label. I was in a hurry and I was tired."

After a verdict of misadventure was recorded, the couple's solicitor, Mrs Linda Muirhead, said she understood the authority would not contest liability for the boy's death, but had not admitted negligence.

Hardline judge steps down

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Justice "Fred" Lawton, one of the last of the tough, "no-nonsense" judges feared by the most hardened criminals, heard his last criminal appeal cases at the High Court yesterday.

The grammar school boy who rose to be a senior Court of Appeal judge steps down next month, aged 75. He has firmly made his mark since being appointed one of the youngest High Court judges at the age of 49.

Yesterday barristers and court officials crowded his court room to pay tribute. Mr Justice Michael Davies said they all recognized he was an "exceptionally good judge" and "irreplaceable".

The son of a prison governor he has often attracted the label of the "hanging judge". Sending down Charles Richardson for 25 years in 1967 he said the south London gang leader was



Lord Justice Lawton: feared by criminals

"vicious, sadistic and a disgrace to society".

He has also been well-known for robust views on sentencing. In 1971 he called for a national labour corps in which offenders could undertake such jobs as clearing industrial debris and in 1978 he recommended "short, sharp shocks" for young offenders, possibly in disused Army camps so that they would learn that "bad behaviour results in unpleasant consequences".

Nor has he much time for the theorizing of social workers and penal reformers or what he called "cozy chats with probation officers".

But the judge also has an unexpected reformist streak. He favours non-custodial penalties where there is room for them and has often shown leniency confronted with the lesser offender.

Under his chairmanship the Criminal Law Revision Committee recommended radical reforms to the law on sexual offences. As a QC he chaired a committee of the law reform group, Justice, which in 1960, created police questioning.

Lord Justice Lawton went to Battersea Grammar School and then Cambridge University.

Law Report, page 38

Teenager who cannot cry awarded £185,000

A teenager who cannot cry after being knocked down by a car won £184,950 damages in the High Court yesterday.

The court was told that Roy Sains, aged 16, was severely handicapped and had become a television addic to relieve his boredom.

He was struck by the car in July 1980 near his home in Meridian Court, Lakes estate,

Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire. Mr Justice Potts said that the car driver, Mr Frank Collar, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, who has since died, and had denied liability, should have sounded his horn.

However, an award of £369,980 was halved because the boy was partly to blame as he did not look before running across the road, the judge said.

Justice Bill in motion

The Criminal Justice Bill, the centre-piece of the Government's legislative programme for the present parliamentary session, got over its first hurdle in the Commons on Thursday night, when it was given a second reading after an Opposition amendment was rejected by 219 votes to 160.

The most controversial part of the Bill is the abolition of

the peremptory challenge of jurors, an issue which might find little favour with lawyers.

It also provides for the confiscation of the proceeds of big crimes, and it allows for children who are victims of, or witnesses to, assaults, to give evidence on television.

The Opposition maintains that the Bill would do nothing about the record crime wave.

November 28 1986

PARLIAMENT

Kinnock accused over M15 case

Conservative MPs called for a statement from Mr Neil Kinnock over what was called his "unpatriotic behaviour" in connection with the case in the Supreme Court in Sydney involving the British Government and Mr Peter Wright, the former M15 officer.

Their action stemmed from a motion on the order paper tabled last night by Mr Robert Hickman (Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire, C) and signed by 52 other Conservatives, calling on the Leader of the Opposition to explain why his office was in regular contact with Mr Wright's lawyers, giving them information and receiving advice and information from them. It further called upon him to explain why he was using the House in an attempt to destroy the Government's case and undermine Britain's security interests.

Mr Peter Lilley (St Albans, C), who had not signed the motion, said, on a point of order, that earlier this week the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) had several times pointed to the misuse of early day motions to vilify people with no right of reply.

"This early day motion makes serious and important allegations about the Leader of the Opposition. He has a right to reply. Can we make sure that he makes a statement to the House responding to the allegations?"

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Ernest Armstrong) said that the making of statements was not a matter for him.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare, C) said that allegations of this sort against a privy counsellor seemed out in considerable detail what appeared to be unprecedented and, on the face of it, unpatriotic behaviour, surely called for a personal statement from Mr Kinnock who was present in the chamber.

The Deputy Speaker said that the matter might be of intense importance, but he had clearly said that the making of statements was not a matter for the Chair.

Mr Kinnock: I have with me a statement, which I deliberately brought into the House as a

consequence of the early day motion put on the order paper yesterday for entirely malign and mischievous reasons which are not connected with matters of national security and everything to do with efforts by Conservative back-benchers to try to cover the very exposed tail of the Government.

The news available from the BBC this morning about evidence given by Sir Robert Armstrong ensures that detailed attention will be given to this case and therefore matters relating to national security.

In these circumstances it is important that I make a statement in order to give members an opportunity to withdraw their early day motion.

I would be more than happy, if you were to find it more acceptable, to provide either in written form, or before the House, a full statement of exactly what has transpired, the reasons for what has transpired and the extent to which I have used quotations, which I drew to the attention of the House on Monday last, of the transcript of the case in Australia.

The Deputy Speaker: If he is presenting a personal statement he should send it to the Speaker.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C): It appears that a lick-spittle from the Leader of the Opposition's office, Miss Helen Hayman, a member of the Australian establishment, is in Australia.

The Deputy Speaker said that the matter should be raised at another time.

Mr Kinnock: The House is in danger of being misled as a consequence of the specious and, to say the least, ungentlemanly conduct of Mr Marlow.

The person he referred to, erroneously using the wrong name, is no lick-spittle. Miss Patricia Hewitt does work for me and is not in Australia. At the moment, I presume, she is at home tending her baby at a few months.

More protection for depositors

The Banking Bill, which will give greater protection to depositors, was read a second time in the Commons. One of its main changes is the setting up of a new Board of Banking Supervision to advise the Bank of England.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, moving the second reading, said that if the British banking system was to continue to serve customers satisfactorily at home and command confidence abroad, there had to be a framework of supervision within which it operated realistically and which was comprehensive and up to date.

It was primarily devoted to supervision in the interests of depositors covering 290 recognized banks and more than 300 licensed credit institutions in the United Kingdom, he said.

At a time of rapid and fundamental change it was important to have appropriate legislation for the regulation of financial institutions. One purpose of the Bill was to ensure that the supervisory regime for banks was compatible with the systems established for investment and securities business and for building societies by the Financial Services Act.

The Bill drew on the lessons learnt from the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers in 1984. That case showed vividly the need both to strengthen the powers of the supervisors and to impose more exacting duties on supervised institutions.

A new Board of Banking Supervision would be established to advise the Bank of England on supervisory matters in the exercise of the Bank's powers. It would consider both individual cases and general matters of supervisory policy. The majority of members of the board would be independent of the Bank.

The distinction between recognized banks and licensed deposit-takers would be ended. The provision of information to the supervisor would be subject to statutory reserve powers and there would be specific requirements in relation to the notification of large exposures.

The legal constraints on di-



McDonald: City scandals since the Big Bang

alogues between supervisor and auditors would be removed.

"The Bill also provides a new power enabling the Bank of England to block a proposed merger or takeover on prudential grounds. Anyone proposing to acquire, or substantially increase, a controlling interest in a deposit-taking business will have to give adequate notice to the Bank of England, which will then have power to object to the transaction if the intended controller does not meet its prudential standards."

The Bank of England at present had virtually no powers to investigate cases of suspected illegal deposit-taking. Accordingly, the Bill greatly strengthened the powers of the supervisor in that area. It also contained new provisions to help depositors recover funds held by illegal deposit-takers.

There were provisions allowing auditors and reporting accountants to communicate information about client companies to the Bank of England without breaching obligations of confidentiality or loyalty.

Dr Oonagh McDonald, an Opposition spokeswoman on Treasury affairs, said that in recent

years the banks had greatly extended personal credit and mortgage lending. Since 1979 there had been an enormous expansion of personal credit. By the end of the second quarter of this year consumer credit spending was almost £28 billion.

Mortgage lending had grown apace and the proportion of repossessions of homes was increasing rapidly.

Since the Big Bang the City had already faced major scandals on insider trading. It might well be that, if some banks, particularly the "bucket shop" banks, were buying shares, that insider trading was going on and the Opposition hoped the Bank of England would be alert to stop it. Who would carry the can for the insider dealing - the individual or the bank itself?

To suggest that all the problems had been solved by the Financial Services Act was to take an optimistic view.

The Opposition would be looking for better depositor protection in the Bill.

On foreign takeovers of banks, the Bill should spell out much more clearly that foreign takeovers should not be allowed where there were no reciprocal arrangements. There should also be considerations of national interest, particularly with the major clearing banks, which played an important part in the management of the British economy.

She was concerned about auditors informing the Bank of England supervisors about the conduct of business by the banks for which they acted. Auditors' prime duty was to the shareholders and auditors, too, often came from large accountancy firms which were, perhaps, acting as management consultants to the same bank.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C) said that this Bill was much needed. It was about seeking better protection for depositors.

There was a danger that the new Board of Banking Supervision could become a cosy club because the Governor of the Bank of England was able to appoint its members and both he and his deputy would be ex-officio members.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) said that he took a cynical view of the provisions preventing bank take-overs. The fear was that following the Big Bang the Japanese would come in and obey every rule, until they got too big for anyone to do anything about it. Then they would revert to the dubious practices they had employed elsewhere.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C) said that people put their trust in banks and the Government had a duty to see that money was protected by preventing banks from taking imprudent risks as they had shown themselves willing to do, for example, in the international debt loan problem.

Mr Kenneth Weeteh (Ipswich, Lab) said that his contacts in the City believed that the Bill was not drawn stringently enough. It was reacting to events rather than trying to shape the future.

Mr Eddon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) said that a major flaw in the Bill was that it would damage the public reputation of smaller banks which did not have £5 million paid up capital and, therefore, would not be allowed to call themselves banks.

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) welcomed the Bill and stressed the importance of the role of the independent members of the new Board of Banking Supervision.

Business News page 25

Car tax offices

An additional 200 sub-post offices are to be added to the motor relicensing network in the next 18 months and, in parallel with that, enforcement of vehicle excise duty had been substantially strengthened, Mr Michael Spicer, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons written answer.

The deployment of an additional 75 posts and the introduction of new technology into local offices should provide for further improvement, he added.

Foreign News page 8

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WORLD SUMMARY

Syria in tit-for-tat envoy expulsions

Damascus (Reuters) — Syria yesterday ordered three West German diplomats to leave within a week in protest against Bonn's expulsion of five Syrian diplomats. Syria's official news agency, Sana, said that Damascus had also decided to recall its Ambassador from Bonn, Mr Shihab Sallo, and reduce the size of its military mission there.

West Germany said on Thursday that its Ambassador to Syria, Herr Wilhelm Diller, who ended his assignment this month, would not be replaced until further notice. The Bonn move followed testimony in the West Berlin trial of two Jordanians on bombing charges that the explosives they used were provided in East Berlin by a member of Syrian Air Force intelligence.

Fishing solution?

Buenos Aires — Argentina is studying the possibility of applying aspects of the Antarctic Treaty to resolve the fishing conservation dispute with Britain in South Atlantic waters, according to the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, (Eduardo Cui writes).

A convention established under the Treaty monitors all marine resources in Antarctic waters while putting aside all conflicting claims to sovereignty in the Antarctic. According to reports here, the United States first suggested the idea of using the convention as a model to resolve the controversy.

Warmer relations

Harare — Mr James Rawlings, aged 57, the new US Ambassador, says that he senses a desire in Zimbabwe to open a new chapter in hitherto chilly relations between the two countries.

Anti-US attacks reached their nadir in July when Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President, stormed out of a reception at which US foreign policy was criticized; \$22 million was then slashed from Zimbabwe's aid programme.

The former Union Carbide executive, yesterday said he believed Zimbabwe was willing to "share our desire for a new chapter in our bilateral relationship."

Nato chief may stay

Brussels — General Bernard Rogers may continue as Supreme Allied Commander Europe for a further two-year term until June 1989 (Frederick Bonmart writes). "I have been asked to stay on by Nato," he said at The Hague this week, "and I will, provided Reagan reappoints me and all the nations want me to stay."

General Rogers has held the position since July 1979. A strong personality, he has on occasions clashed with the nations' permanent representatives and recently disagreed with the US position over the Reykjavik arms control proposals.

Ndebele choice

Johannesburg — The election of Mr George Mahlangu, right, aged 35, as the new Chief Minister in KwaNdebele, the impoverished tribal homeland, has raised fears of renewed violence in the territory (Michael Hornsby writes).

The only other candidate was a distant relative, Prince James Mahlangu, who this year led a campaign against Pretoria's "independence" plans.



UK opinion silenced

Moscow — Sir Bryan Cartledge, the British Ambassador in Moscow, last night accused *Lepidus* of refusing to print a letter from him detailing the links — never disclosed in the Soviet Union — between Nizar Haidawi, the jailed terrorist and the Syrian Government (Christopher Walker writes).

The letter was part of a campaign including private meetings with senior Foreign Ministry officials to try to explain the recent break in Anglo-Syrian diplomatic relations, which has been criticized bitterly by the Kremlin.

The letter pointed out that Haidawi's visa applications were twice backed by notes from the Syrian Foreign Ministry and that he spent the night after the attempted bombing of the Al Aj jet in Syria Embassy accommodation.

Treasurer under fire

Canberra (Reuters) — Australia's conservative opposition has demanded the resignation of the Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating, after he admitted having failed to file tax returns since 1984.

Mr Keating, who described his failure to lodge the returns as regrettable, was now a laughing stock who had lost all credibility, the Liberal Opposition leader, Mr John Howard, said. "The Prime Minister ought to sack him."

Muscles in bikinis

Shenzhen (Reuters) — Chinese and Westerners yesterday greeted China's first female body-building contest as scantily-clad girls flexed their muscles to the disco music of Michael Jackson and Tina Turner.

Thousands crowded a gymnasium in this border town near Hong Kong as contestants worked out in what was also China's first officially-sanctioned bikini parade. Some people were offering four times the entry fee to see the show.

Basque voters offered 'carrot' to pick Socialist

From Richard Wigg Bilbao

Making one of his rare visits to Spain's Basque country for tomorrow's regional general election, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, held out the "carrot" of more economic progress if the Basques vote for a Socialist as their next Chief Minister.

"We will advance much more if the Socialists form the nucleus of a new government in Vitoria," he told Socialist supporters at his party's final meeting here, largely drawn from the working-class districts of the Basque country's industrial capital.

He was answered before campaigning ended last night by Señor José Ardanza, the outgoing Chief Minister from the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), who asserted that many promises made in the past by Señor González to assist the troubled Basque region had not been kept after election time.

A deep split in the PNV and the formation of a breakaway party, Basque Solidarity, which is now running against him, obliged Señor Ardanza to call elections 18 months before they were due. He runs the risk that the Socialists could, for the first time,

provide the Chief Minister in the self-governing region.

Neither the Socialist challengers nor the PNV is expected to get an outright majority in the 75-seat Basque Parliament.

Señor Ardanza is threatening to go into the Opposition if the PNV is not in first place tomorrow (something widely doubted in the Basque country), opening the prospect of much post-electoral bargaining over a share of the spoils of office with the Socialists.

Señor José Bengas, aged 38, the Socialist candidate as Chief Minister, understandably wants to negotiate after

Sunday from a position of strength. The Socialists have therefore gone all-out for the so-called non-nationalist "Spanish vote" — the middle-class vote previously shared by the centre and right.

Symbolically, the Spanish flag figured alongside the Basque *Ikurrina* at all their meetings.

By giving top priority to the economic issue and the fight against Eia terrorism, contrasted with the region's lack of progress under the PNV over the past six years, the Socialists hope to capture this vote too.

The fundamental differences over home rule were underlined by Señor Bengas, who stresses it is only an instrument for resolving citizens' problems. All the nationalist parties have told him that home rule is something precious in itself.

All the parties have spoken of the acute necessity after the elections of a solemn pact "to make the Basque country governable". But in reality this campaign has divided nationalists and those from parties in the rest of Spain as never before.

To complicate the post-electoral arithmetic, Popular Unity, which never took its

seats in the old parliament, has threatened to participate in order to vote against some candidates for Chief Minister, and then withdraw again. This threat, if carried out, could make the Basque parliament unworkable. All the other parties have condemned the idea.

Unless it now strikes in the first hours before tomorrow, Eia has kept out of these elections with no killings or kidnappings.

The view in the Basque country is that Eia does not want to help the Socialists with a vote based on fear.

1987 named as 'Aids Year'

France steps up fight to control disease

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is to set up an Aids Foundation, with responsibility for both research into the disease and care of victims, as part of a new campaign against Aids. The Government has also decided to make 1987 "Aids Year".

France has twice as many Aids cases as Britain. More than 1,000 people have contracted Aids in France over the past five years, and the disease is now spreading at a rate of 15 new cases a week — nearly three times the number just one year ago. Between 100,000 and 200,000 people are believed to be carriers of the Aids virus. Every day a baby is born who is contaminated by the virus.

An estimated 10,000 women of child-bearing age are infected, and the French Society of Perinatal Medicine says that Aids is set to become the most common infectious disease among new-born children next year.

Two-thirds of Aids sufferers in France are aged between 20 and 40. Most (85 per cent) are men, but the proportion of women is growing rapidly. Homosexuals and male-bisexuals account for 68 per cent of Aids cases, drug addicts 8 per cent, and people who have

received contaminated blood transfusions 4 per cent, but more and more cases are being found in the so-called "no-risk" categories.

At present, the disease is spreading most rapidly among drug addicts, who account for nearly half the new cases.

The US State Department is planning to screen its foreign service applicants, employees and their dependants for signs of the Aids virus. The *Washington Post* reported yesterday (Moshin Ali writes from Washington). The Defence Department has been testing recruits and active-duty personnel for some 12 months.

registered within the last three months. The Government admits that a drug addict now has a 50-50 chance of catching Aids from using dirty needles, but it has rejected requests for syringes to be sold over the counter.

Although France is in the forefront of research into Aids, it appears to be way behind Britain or the United States in other respects.

The only concrete measures adopted so far have been the introduction in August 1985 of compulsory screening for

all blood donors and the recent lifting of the advertising ban on condoms.

Mme Michèle Barzach, the Health Minister, announced this week that the Government is to spend 13 million francs (£1.4 million) next year on prevention and a further 37 million francs on reimbursing those who undergo Aids tests. But the funds fall far short of what the medical profession says it urgently needs.

Mikhail Baryshnikov, the Russian ballet dancer, is to dance in a new solo ballet specially created for him by Maurice Bejart at a charity performance at the Moulin Rouge in Paris on Monday in aid of Aids. The show has been organized by the Association of Artists and Entertainers Against Aids, which raised over £1 million at its last charity performance a year ago.

GENEVA: "There is a message of hope that if action is taken what is now foreseen can be prevented", Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said yesterday in summing up his almost four hours of discussions on Aids at the World Health Organization (Alan MacGregor writes).



A student using Louis Pasteur's statue in the Sorbonne as a pulpit to present his case against the university Bill.

Students call Paris rally to beat Bill

From Our Own Correspondent Paris

Students and secondary-school pupils throughout the country continued strikes and sporadic demonstrations yesterday as deputies began debating the French Government's hotly contested University Reform Bill. More than 1,000 amendments to the Bill have been tabled by the Socialists and Communists.

The *ad hoc* students' national co-ordinating committee yesterday called for another mass march in Paris on December 4 to protest against the Bill, following the success of Thursday's demonstrations which attracted more than 500,000 students.

The committee also called for the occupation of university buildings from Monday, and for the continuation of student strikes that have already affected more than two-thirds of universities and many secondary schools.

University teachers are to be asked to strike in support.

Meanwhile, many students have been carrying out their own forms of protest. In Nîmes, for example, 2,000 students stopped trains from running for nearly an hour by occupying the station; while in Carcassonne, traffic in the city centre was brought to a standstill by a student sit-in.

The students' main grievance is over the Government's alleged plans to introduce selection for university entrance. At present, a university place is open to anyone who passes the *baccalauréat*, which about 25 per cent of school-leavers do.

The Government claims it is not planning to introduce selection for university places. But suspicious have been aroused by the omission from the Bill of the key word "all" from the existing law stating that university entrance will be open to "all students with the *baccalauréat*".

Universities are also to be allowed for the first time to refuse entry to those who are under-qualified for the course to which they apply, and to those applying for courses already over-subscribed.

At present, selection is only supposed to be practised by the most elite establishments, such as the Polytechnique and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. Other universities, however, have been practising their own clandestine selection system.

The students also dislike proposals to give back majority power to university professors and lecturers and to reduce student representation on university governing bodies.

Reagan criticized over Salt 2 breach

From Moshin Ali, Washington

Mr Les Aspin, the Democrat chairman of the House armed services committee, said yesterday that President Reagan's decision to violate Salt 2 limits is a "very bad decision" that would work to the Soviet Union's advantage.

He claimed that the Administration made the premature announcement about it on Thanksgiving holiday eve to try to lead political wounds still sore from the Iran arms scandal.

The US was yesterday due to breach its Salt 2 strategic arms treaty by deploying its 131st bomber carrying cruise missiles.

The Defence Department said on Wednesday that the B 52 heavy bomber, armed with cruise missiles, would be flying yesterday to a Texas air base to become operational.

The B 52's armaments will bring the US total above the 1,320 limit set by Salt 2 for land and sea-launched multiple warhead ballistic missiles and cruise-carrying bombers.

The move had been expected since May of this year, when President Reagan, who has called the unratified 1979 Salt 2 pact flawed and has accused the Soviet Union of violations, announced his

Crisis in the White House

intention to end voluntary compliance. Mr Aspin said the ability of the Soviet Union to take advantage of a world in which those Salt limits no longer exist far exceeds that of the United States in the short run.

He said Moscow could add warheads to large missiles faster than American production lines could. "In the short run, it's all to their advantage to do away with these Salt supplements."

Mr Aspin said President Reagan's arms control policies were "in very deep trouble" in the new Democrat-controlled Congress.

Iran still offering hostages for arms

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament yesterday reiterated his willingness to help in the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon in return for the delivery of American weapons bought by Iran at the time of the Shah.

His statement was important, since it suggested a desire on the part of the Iranians to continue negotiations for the freedom of US hostages despite the apparent breakdown of contacts between Washington and Iran.

In his sermon at Friday prayers in Tehran, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani insisted that the American Government was misleading its people by concentrating their attention on the payments made for arms rather than on the hostages who might be released in return for the weapons.

"If America stops being a bully and returns our material held there we will ask the Lebanese people to help you on the question of the hostages," Mr Rafsanjani said. "Therefore, do not try to change the issue and pretend that it has to do with arms purchases."

He denied that Israel had trans-shipped some of the American military supplies, claiming that Iran had "never negotiated with Israel — which we consider an illegitimate

sperm — for arms purchases". If Iran found the weapons had come through Israel, "we will not even use them in the war fronts".

Mr Rafsanjani attacked what he called America's "financial corruption" — an apparent reference to the channelling of funds to the Contras rebels in Central America — which had "forced" all the political figures and Attorney-General of America to engage in contradiction and lies.

The Russians were not spared by Mr Rafsanjani, who is aware that Soviet equipment has been given to the Iraqis.

"Unfortunately, the Soviet Union has also misused this issue and has announced that America's interference in the war will cause the war to last longer," he said. "But we say: Do you who give missiles, aircraft, weapons and ammunition to Iraq... wish to see the war end? If you claim that you wish to see the end of the war, you should not give anything to Iraq."

US nuclear move angers Gorbachov

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, yesterday reacted angrily to reports that the Americans have breached the agreed limits for nuclear weapons in the Salt 2 talks.

"We regard this as a major mistake," he said. Mr Gorbachov was questioned about news that the United States has broken the limit, by arming additional B 52 bombers, during a joint press conference with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, at the end of his four-day visit to Delhi.

Mr Gorbachov said he had had no official confirmation from the White House, but had read press reports.

"If that were so," Mr Gorbachov said, "we believe that step is contradictory to the entire logic of the Reykjavik meeting and to statements by the US side after Reykjavik that the US remains committed to the search for disarmament."

The Soviet leader said the Americans were demonstrating their contempt for the other arms limitation treaties, as well as the Salt series. He said it would make the search

for an approach to disarmament more difficult.

But then his mood lightened; after all, he was at the end of a successful visit to his closest non-communist friend. Remembering the unwavering support that Mr Gandhi had just given him in the Russian view of the disarmament process, he suggested: "This is an incentive to those who understand the need for nuclear disarmament. Today everyone should act together. Everyone should declare his position to the Government of the United States."

How much did the President know?

As one Democratic wag put it: "There are probably more shoes left to drop in this case than Imelda Marcos had in her closet." For virtually no one believes that with the dismissal of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the Iran scandal has come to an end.

Indeed, to a growing number of people the similarities with Watergate are becoming all too pointed: the leak, the dismissal of a relatively junior official, the denial of all knowledge by the President's top men, the public suspicion that others must have been involved, the setting up of a formal inquiry, the shredding of key documents, and finally the crisis of credibility, which has begun to lap at the feet of the President himself.

And now the old Watergate refrain is again echoing around the country: What did the President know and when did he know it?

It is most unlikely that a Nixonian fate awaits Mr Reagan. There are fundamental differences: whatever the blunders and misjudgments, it is generally recognized that Mr Reagan began the Iran operation out of a genuine concern, widely reflected in the country, to get American hostages home safely.

Unlike Mr Nixon, Mr Reagan is not thought to have condoned the breaking of petty laws for personal or political gain, nor to have authorized a subsequent cover-up — indeed, quite the opposite. His Administration is all too anxious to avoid any whiff of Watergate.

But the question of presidential knowledge is a persistent one and is potentially very damaging. In the unlikely case that Mr Reagan knew of the

contraband connection to his Iran arms deal he is, at least, guilty of deception, lying and breaking the law.

But if he knew nothing, he is charged with incompetence in not having control over his own Government. How is it possible that a President should not have taken the trouble to find out what was going on in his National Security Council? Mr Reagan has never been a man for details. It rarely mattered in the past.

After the almost obsessive attempt by President Carter to oversee every detail of his Government, Americans were happy with a President who was able to delegate responsibility, to take a broad view and to rise above the technicalities of his decisions. Many made fun of government

by one card, but most admired the President's ability to cut through to the heart of issues, his insistence on reducing paralytically complex dilemmas to simple questions and then answering them.

But reliance on subordinates and Cabinet officers to draw up policy options makes it all the more essential that such men are of the highest calibre. And here, many agree, Mr Reagan has been badly let down, especially in his second term after Mr Jim Baker left as White House Chief of Staff to become Treasury Secretary.

Under Mr Donald Regan, the White House has increasingly been staffed by those whose loyalty has counted for more than ability. The tendency has been to govern reactively, especially in foreign policy, rather than to develop strategies for the President to follow. The Reykjavik debacle was in large part due to a lack of preparation, to the attempt by the President to negotiate from his instincts rather than from properly thought-out briefing papers.

The White House has seemed especially concerned by the perception of policy rather than its content, by the way decisions will be perceived by media and the effects on the President's popularity rating. Too often this has led to popularity becoming the yard-

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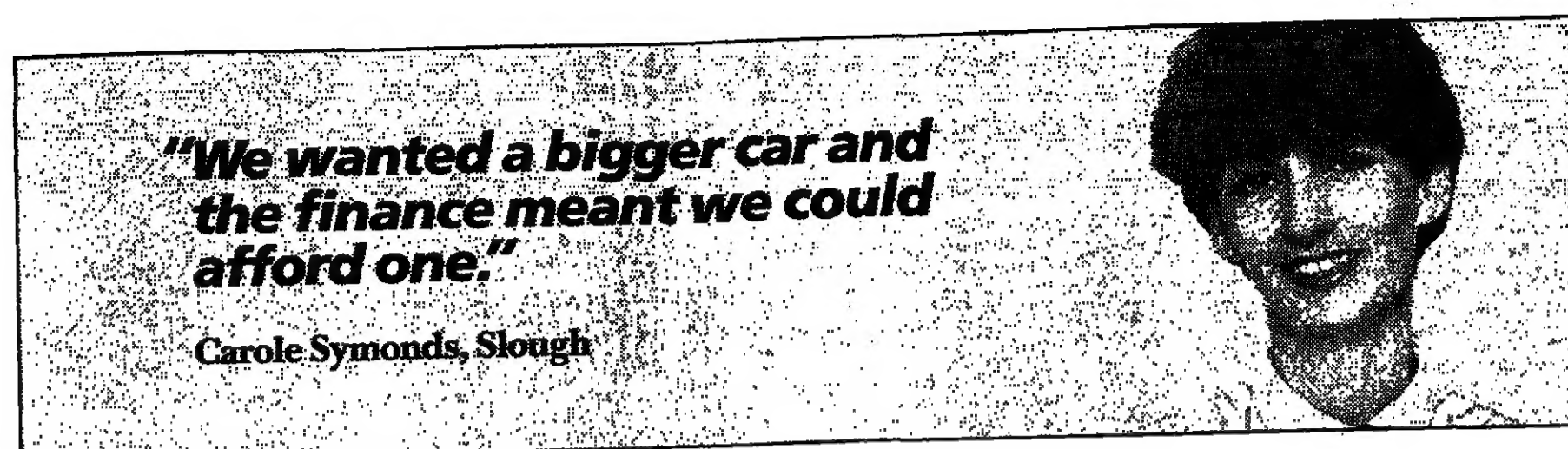
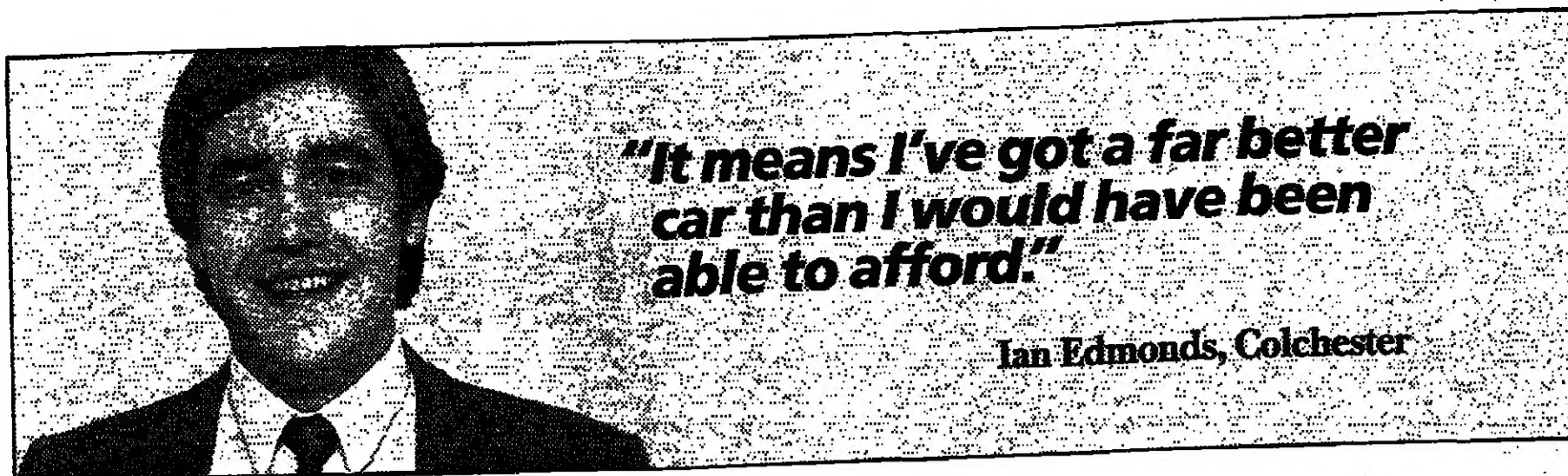
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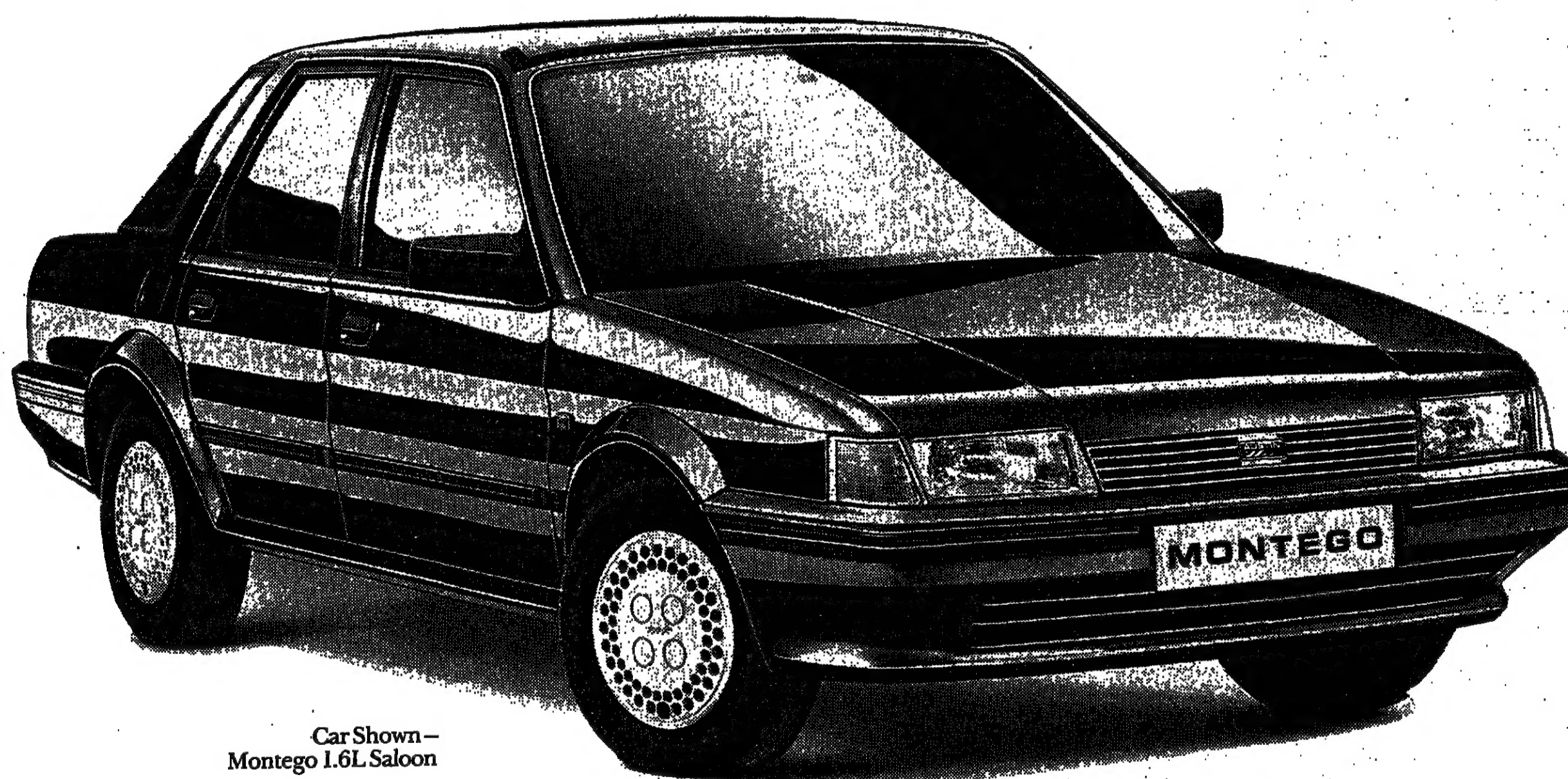
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John G. 12/86

Battle rages over village as Syria combats PLO renaissance in Lebanon

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Sidon

"You like Che Guevara?" asked the young gunman from the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army as he lit another cigarette inside his improvised sentry post on the deserted coastal road. "Guevara, very good, Amal no good," he went on, developing an improbable theory of his own as he stood there, indifferent to the artillery blasts that rattled the tin roof of his hut.

Should the legendary guerrilla commander have survived his campaign in the jungle of Bolivia 18 years ago, said the gunman, Guevara would be out there, fighting alongside the Palestinians. Things would have gone differently. Or so he said.

Hundreds of tired Palestinian guerrillas battling in the hills east of Sidon would probably like to think so, too. Since they launched an impressive offensive to capture the strategic hilltop village of Maghdoush, which has already claimed around 200 lives, yesterday spread to the shuns of Beirut, where Amal gunmen, supported by mortar and tank fire, launched simultaneous attacks on the Bourj el-Berajneh and Chastila Palestinian camps. A communiqué issued by Mr Arafat's Fatah faction said two Amal tanks were destroyed during the Palestinian counter-offensive, in which six people were reported killed.

Appeals by Lebanon's Christian and Muslim religious leaders failed to dispel the tension in the streets of west Beirut, where armed militiamen could be seen manning checkpoints for the first time in months. Lebanese Syria has mobilized all of its left-wing and Muslim allies to try to halt a Palestinian renaissance in southern Lebanon four years after the Israeli invasion; a Damascus-sponsored rebellion within the PLO-scattered Mr Yasser Arafat's badly beaten forces across the Arab world.

President Assad clearly wants to keep the risks as low as possible and has mustered support in Libya and Iraq to try to crush Mr Arafat's plans

to rebuild his power base in Lebanon.

So far, his efforts have proved fruitless. Neither the Popular Liberation Army nor any other leftist militia are defending Amal in the battlefield. The latest Syrian failure became evident yesterday afternoon, when both the Palestinians and Amal ignored a ceasefire agreement painstakingly reached in Damascus — largely because Mr Arafat's forces were not represented in the negotiations.

Syria, which refuses to talk to Mr Arafat, has been dealing exclusively with the Palestine National Salvation Front, a Syrian-based coalition of six guerrilla groups opposed to Mr Arafat. But concern in Syria grew as several of these groups began to involve themselves on Mr Arafat's side in the fierce confrontation around Sidon. Both Palestinians and Amal claim to be in control of the hills.

As expected, the battle for Maghdoush, which has already claimed around 200 lives, yesterday spread to the shuns of Beirut, where Amal gunmen, supported by mortar and tank fire, launched simultaneous attacks on the Bourj el-Berajneh and Chastila Palestinian camps. A communiqué issued by Mr Arafat's Fatah faction said two Amal tanks were destroyed during the Palestinian counter-offensive, in which six people were reported killed.

Appeals by Lebanon's Christian and Muslim religious leaders failed to dispel the tension in the streets of west Beirut, where armed militiamen could be seen manning checkpoints for the first time in months. Lebanese

newspaper columnists are warning that the Palestinians' determination to recover military and political power in Lebanon heralds a new phase in the 11-year-old civil war.

"The situation has taken a very dangerous turn," said a Lebanese source who was present at the talks in Damascus. In Syria's view, a strong Palestinian presence in Sidon would not only give the PLO its first foothold in Lebanon since 1982, but would push Amal below the Zahran river, thus creating a *de facto* Sunni Muslim canton in the south.

"It is very difficult to believe that the Palestinians will withdraw from their new positions simply because Syria wants to help Amal maintain its only stronghold near Sidon," said the Lebanese.

When it comes to ensuring a truce, Syrian negotiators are used to failure. But this time, the Damascus Government is so eager to stress its decisive influence in Lebanon that some officials are said to be considering the deployment of Syrian Army troops into the Maghdoush hills — only 25 miles north of the Israeli-occupied zone of southern Lebanon, and much closer to the notional "red line" just above the Litani river below which the Israelis say they will not allow Syrian forces to penetrate.

Most Syrian officials are said to be inclined to repeat an experiment which proved brutally successful a year ago in Tripoli. There, besieged Palestinian guerrillas and Sunni Muslim allies were defeated by Syria and its allies after two weeks of savage shelling that destroyed entire neighbourhoods.



The Pope receiving a kiss as he arrives at a Catholic school in Melbourne yesterday, where he fielded questions from pupils before leaving to lead prayers for destitute men at a hostel (Reuters reports).

ton racecourse and warned embryo research scientists that they must use their skills in the service of humanity "to make sure that these never become false idols".

The Pope will fly to Alice Springs today where 10,000 Aborigines from all over the country have gathered to meet him.

Talks on Hong Kong constitution

Pressure for early agreement

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

The search for agreement between Whitehall and Peking on the shape of Hong Kong's constitution shifted into high gear yesterday amid a flurry of diplomatic moves.

Strong indications were emerging that both want a tacit but early agreement on the type of democratic process to be used. Whitehall is debating whether to introduce direct elections in 1988 and Peking is planning the settlement's post-colonial law.

While publicly insisting that the constitution until June 30, 1997, is for Whitehall and Hong Kong to decide, Britain is anxious not to implement democratic structures destined to be dismantled when Peking takes over.

Sir Edward Youde, the colony's Governor, arrived home

yesterday after two meetings with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary. On Monday he and Sir Richard Evans, the British Ambassador to China, are to meet Chinese ministers in Peking.

By spring Britain is to produce a Green Paper discussing extensions to Hong Kong's limited system of representation in which it could be suggested that up to a quarter of the National Assembly be directly elected in 1988.

The Basic Law Drafting Committee, made up of 36 Chinese officials and 23 prominent local citizens, is debating what law will apply when the British leave. Its first draft is expected in 1990.

In theory there is a watertight barrier between the two moves. In practice both sides want to link them.

The right of Hong Kong's 5.5 million residents to con-

Austerity measures start riot in Brasilia

From Mac Margolis
Rio de Janeiro

Work crews spent most of yesterday morning sweeping up the charred debris and rubble left behind by Thursday's anti-government protest in Brasilia.

A peaceful protest against recent austerity measures turned into an ugly confrontation as soldiers and military police clashed with thousands of demonstrators protesting against imminent dismissals of government workers and stiff new price rises. Some protesters went on a rampage, setting 29 government vehicles ablaze, looting supermarkets and vandalizing banks.

The demonstration, organized by opposition parties and trade unions, started with a peaceful rally at Brasilia's bus station. The crowd marched towards the Ministry of Finance where thousands shouted anti-government slogans. But when President Jose Sarney left the presidential palace to attend a Thanksgiving Day Mass, police advanced on the crowds. By dusk the laws in front of the ministries were a near-battlefield reeled in tear gas.

Yesterday police were again dispatched to disperse a crowd at the bus station.

These disturbances have marred the administration of Senator Sarney, who less than two weeks ago was enjoying an overwhelming election victory.

The Government gambled on a sweeping array of economic reforms, such as steep increases in petrol and utility rates, and the closure of loss-making state companies. The reforms were judged vital to control consumer spending and finance a gaping budget deficit, which threatened an anti-inflation plan. However, the price rises hurt middle-class consumers and the plans to close 15 state enterprises could result in the loss of up to 30,000 jobs.

Public outcry was immediate and almost overnight Senator Sarney's popularity plunged. The stock market plummeted and Senator Dilson Fumero, the Finance Minister, offered to step down.

Senator Sarney refused to accept Senator Fumero's resignation, but the crisis may not be over. The Militant Centre of Unified Workers has called a national general strike for mid-December.

Thailand tests EEC goods for radiation

Bangkok — Large quantities of dairy products, cereals and farm fertilizers imported from Europe are held up on the Bangkok docks for radiation testing because of fears that they are contaminated from the Chernobyl disaster (Neil Kelly writes).

EEC officials in Bangkok have complained that the Thai Government has set safety levels far too low and have warned that the decision could damage Thai-European trade relations.

Fruitful racket

Foggia, Italy (Reuters) — Italian magistrates have issued warrants for the arrest of 40 people over a huge fruit and vegetable racket they say has defrauded the EEC of up to 30 billion lire (£15 million).

Jobs for girls

Bonn (Reuters) — More West German girls are going into "men's jobs" than ever before. A nationwide study showed one in 12 girls going into trades once the preserve of men only, such as metal and electrical work.

Yamani ban

Le Brassus, Switzerland (UPI) — Sheikh Yamani, the former Saudi oil minister, missed a Swiss hotel shareholders' meeting because King Faud has banned him from leaving Saudi Arabia.

PC spy jailed

Hamburg (Reuters) — A Bremen detective who sold East Germany data about fellow-policemen has been jailed for five years. Horst Manske, aged 33, was also fined DM 21,900 (£7,820), the amount he said the East Germans paid him.

Protest fires

Tokyo (Reuters) — Suspected radical extremists firebombed homes of two executives working on a controversial expansion of Tokyo's Narita airport. Simultaneous fires at the front doors of the houses in Yokohama and Matsudo caused slight damage.

Tower death

Paris (AP) — The body of an unidentified woman who threw herself from the Eiffel Tower has been found at the foot of the Paris landmark.

THE LAST ROUND UP

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How the mass slaughter of contaminated reindeer herds is putting a whole way of life under the threat of extinction.

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The MI5 case: Cabinet Secretary apologizes

Sir Robert admits misleading court on who passed spy book

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, admitted yesterday that he had misled the MI5 book hearing about who had effectively sanctioned publication of the Chapman Pincher book, *The Trade Is Treachery*.

Sir Robert conceded that, although he had testified under oath that Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, had been the one who decided against trying to restrain the book, he now understood that he was wrong. As a result of speaking to London by telephone earlier in the day, Sir Robert said he realized he had unwittingly misled the court and wished to put the record straight.

Sir Michael had been "unhappy" with his evidence, he added.

Those who had actually advised that there was "no basis on which to seek to restrain publication" of the book, according to a sworn official statement provided to the court and signed by Sir Robert, were unknown "legal advisers" who, Sir Robert said, it might now be impossible to identify.

The Cabinet Secretary apologized to the court three times for what he said was an unintentional mistake, and said he had tried throughout his evidence to tell the truth.

He was speaking in a closed session of

court, but because his concession was said to be of "enormous gravity", and because it related to evidence given in open court, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, counsel for Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 mole-hunter, asked that it be made part of the public record.

Mr Justice Powell agreed, and a transcript of the relevant evidence was made available later in the day.

Mr Turnbull has argued that the reason there was no attempt to restrain the book was because it had been secretly sanctioned. Mr Wright, whose own book covering similar ground, *Whitehall does want to smother*, says

Attorney-General not party to decision

As recorded in the transcript, Sir Robert Armstrong said in court yesterday that, when he first gave evidence, he had "assumed from what I was told" that the decision against trying to restrain the book had been Sir Michael's, but he now understood that it had not been referred to the Attorney-General.

The following extracts are from the transcript:

Mr Turnbull: Who made that decision?

Sir Robert: I don't know who made that decision. I do not think it was a single person. I think it was a collective decision among those concerned.

Mr Turnbull: Who was concerned?

Sir Robert: I would like to find out about that. I do not know exactly.

Mr Turnbull: You do not know?

Sir Robert: I have been informed, as I say, that it was a decision taken by legal advisers concerned. I have not yet found out who they all were. I am afraid there are no papers in regard to the decision, and I am afraid it may be impossible to find out.

Later the cross-examination resumed.

Mr Turnbull: Sir Robert, I want to put it to you that the only reason you have made this concession is because Sir Michael Havers has made it very plain in London that he had no part in the decision not to restrain. That's so, isn't it?

Sir Robert: Sir Michael Havers was unhappy with the answers which I gave and, having made inquiries, I was intending to find an opportunity of putting the record straight in this matter. Your questions have given me that opportunity now.

And later:

Mr Turnbull: Well, who was the piece of blood and bone, who was the human being that

received the advice from these lawyers, that there was no basis to restrain the book?

Sir Robert: It was a conclusion reached in discussion among a number of people.

Mr Turnbull: What are their names?

Sir Robert: As I have said, I can't tell you who they were.

Mr Turnbull: You have no idea?

Sir Robert: I don't know because I wasn't a party.

Mr Turnbull: Was the Prime Minister one of them?

Sir Robert: No.

Mr Turnbull: Let's go through them. The Prime Minister had nothing to do with it?

On the first day of Sir Robert's cross-examination by Mr Turnbull, the following exchange took place:

Mr Turnbull: I put it to you that you and the Prime Minister and the security service allowed Chapman Pincher to write the book (*The Trade Is Treachery*) for the issue (the investigation of Sir Roger Hollis) to come out from a right-wing journalist, rather than an ugly journalist of the left.

Sir Robert: It's a very ingenious conspiracy theory and it's quite untrue.

Mr Turnbull: Did you speak to the Attorney-General?

Sir Robert: I did not.

Mr Turnbull: Who did you speak to?

Sir Robert: I spoke to my colleague in the Cabinet office.

And later:

Mr Turnbull: Was the Prime Minister in favour of *The Trade Is Treachery* being published?

Sir Robert: No, not at all.

Mr Turnbull: Sir Robert, what about Mr William Whitelaw? Was he in favour?

Sir Robert: I don't think he was any more in favour of it than anybody else.

Mr Turnbull: So we have the security service, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Secretary all against the publication of this book. Correct?

Sir Robert: I think that the Government would have pre-

ferred this book not to have been published, but it was advised that there was no basis for restraint.

Mr Turnbull: Right. That advice was given not by the Solicitor-General, not by the Attorney-General, not by the Treasury solicitor, but by some anonymous lawyers whose names you can't remember, and whose position in the hierarchy hardly indicates that they were people of first-class calibre. That is so, isn't it?

Sir Robert: I don't think that follows at all. I have said that I am not informed about who they were. I have been informed that the advice was reached, the conclusion was reached, after consultation among the legal advisers concerned. I am not able, I'm afraid, to advise you who those were, because I can't find out. There are no documents to show it.

Mr Turnbull: Do you only tell the truth when there are documents likely to demonstrate it?

Sir Robert: I have tried to tell the truth throughout. Mr Turnbull: I'm sorry that I was misled in this case, that I assumed that when it said the legal advisers concerned, it included the Attorney, but I was wrong.

Mr Turnbull: Sir Robert, why was the Attorney-General left out of the decision-making process in respect of *The Trade Is Treachery*?

Sir Robert: I don't know why he was not brought into the process by which that conclusion was reached.

Mr Turnbull: He wasn't part of the conspiracy, was he?

Sir Robert: He was not part of the conspiracy.

Mr Turnbull: And you were?

Sir Robert: I was not part of any conspiracy either.



Mr Gorbachev gives an Indian farewell after a speech to the Delhi Parliament attacking the US Star Wars programme.

Gorbachov hints at independent Afghanistan soon

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Declaring that he looked forward to the establishment of "an independent non-aligned Afghanistan, a neutral Afghanistan", Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, yesterday insisted that he saw movement in the UN negotiations.

Senior Diego Cordoves, the UN General Secretary's special representative, is at present in Iran conducting a further round of contacts preliminary to renewed direct talks in Geneva. He is expected to return again to both Kabul and Islamabad before the round is over. But Mr Gorbachov, without disclosing what the change in attitudes might be that would bring about a settlement, insisted that there had been "reciprocal movement" this time.

"Prospects for a settlement of this problem in the near future do exist," he told a crowded press conference marking the end of his four-day visit to the Indian capital.

Mr Gorbachov, who sat alongside Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to sum up the successes of his meetings, was surrounded by the curiously inappropriate grandeur of the Ashok Hall of India's presidential palace — the former viceregal lodge built by Sir Edwin Lutyens, of which this was the state ballroom.

The Communist leader was pressed again and again by Indian journalists on the apparent conflict between the friendly relations his Government had with India and the friendly relations he sought with China which, questioners pointed out, was in occupation of several hundred square miles of Indian territory. Mr

Gorbachov wisely declined to be drawn into the dispute, allowing merely that "what we are doing is the improvement of our relations with China will not weaken our relations with India".

The subject of Chinese relations drew further attention to Mr Gorbachov's policy on Asian and Pacific security, which he had outlined in his speech in Vladivostok, and which he was no doubt hoping would evoke some response from India. Unfortunately for him, however, the Indians remained obstinately cool on the subject.

The elaborate series of proposals relating to the Indian Ocean, which the Russian leader brought forward in his address to the Indian Parliament remained on the table, without further development, and the closing joint statement issued yesterday noted: "The Soviet side explained in detail the Soviet Union's concrete programme for maintaining peace and security and establishing co-operation and interaction in the Asian Pacific region."

The statement continued that the Indian side elaborated the steps taken "in building co-operation at the regional level through the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation", adding pointedly: "without outside interference."

This setback apart, the four-day visit was as effluent a festival of brotherly affection as could have been wished. India and the Soviet Union agreed on virtually every other foreign policy topic mentioned: Nicaragua, Cambodia, Palestine, South Africa, Diego Garcia.

Uzbekistan faces anti-Islam campaign

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The first details emerged here yesterday of an important speech delivered in the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan early this week by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, in which he called for a stepping-up of atheist propaganda there and criticized the corruption for which the republic is notorious.

Speaking party and government officials during a stop-over on his way to India, he called for "a firm and uncompromising struggle against religious phenomena and a strengthening of political work among the masses and of atheist propaganda".

His speech was of special interest because the republic is largely Muslim and is the headquarters of the officially approved Muslim Board for Central Asia, an area where Islam remains strong.

Uzbekistan is known as one of the most corrupt of the 15 Soviet republics. *Pravda* recently disclosed that some 2,600 officials there had been sacked, fined or disciplined for incompetence and corruption. Two months ago a former minister in the cotton cleaning industry was sentenced to death for corruption.

The first account of Mr Gorbachov's speech on November 24 reached Moscow only yesterday in a copy of the

Uzbek party daily, *Pravda Vostoka*.

"We must be strict above all with Communists and senior officials, particularly those who say they defend our morality and ideals, but in fact help promote backward views and themselves take part in religious ceremonies," Mr Gorbachov said.

No explanation was available as to why the text of the speech was not immediately released by Tass, the official news agency, which simply reported that Mr Gorbachov had delivered a "major" address during his stop-over. In the past, few of Mr Gorbachov's major speeches have been kept secret and those

have dealt with detailed claims of corrupt practice inside state bodies.

Pravda Vostoka said Mr Gorbachov called for a campaign to bring "new, healthy forces" into leading positions in the republic. "In the key question of selecting personnel, serious mistakes and violations were made, which caused great moral and material damage," he said.

The full extent of corruption was exposed early this year when the long-standing Uzbek party chief, Mr Sharaf Rashidov, was posthumously stripped of all honours and accused of being at the centre of a web of corruption.

Greek budget aims to cut inflation

From A Constantinos, Athens

Greece's Socialist Government has presented a deficit budget for 1987, maintaining high defence and welfare spending while seeking to reduce inflation, which now runs at more than 17 per cent or six times the EEC average.

The 2,740 billion drachma (£14 billion) budget, which is 19 per cent higher than this year's, marks the second year

of economic austerity under the prime ministership of Mr Andreas Papandreu. It was assailed by the Conservative opposition as unrealistic, consisting of "sacrifices without hope".

According to the economic forecast, inflation will drop to 12 per cent by the end of 1987. The Government has already frozen prices for the last two months of this year to bring year-end inflation close to 16 per cent.

And on the basis of the Government's economic performance this year, Greece expects to receive the second part of a £1.1 billion special loan from the European Community.

Officials said another year of austerity would trim the current account deficit to £880 million from a predicted £1.3 billion this year.

The new budget forecasts a 668 billion drachma (£34 billion) deficit.

Chiang ready to welcome opposition

From Robert Grievs, Taipei

The huge red flag with the blue and white sun design billowing in front of Taipei's modern Chiang Kai-shek airport alerts the visitor to Taiwan that he is in "the other China". Similarly, the sleek airport building and the cheerful well-groomed customs clerks have few, if any, counterparts in the People's Republic of China.

The four-lane highway from the airport to Taiwan's capital offers vistas of well-kept farmland and neat brick houses with traditional tile roofs that stand as welcome relief from the drab countryside of the mainland. Phalanxes of motor scooters, Taiwanese *Yan Long* saloons and South Korean Hyundai estate cars also contrast sharply with mainland traffic, in which bicycles and Japanese vehicles predominate.

Despite these differences, both Chinas are led by men who, late in life, are determined to liberalize their political systems.

For more than seven years Mr Deng Xiaoping, aged 82, has pushed for a more flexible economic policy and political reform in China. Now Mr Chiang Ching-kuo, aged 76, the son of the late Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who



President Chiang: shocked by Kuomintang corruption. He has set foot in Taiwan, a dissident founder of the DPP, who was charged with sedition for his role in opposition party riots seven years ago, will return to Taiwan in the company of Mr Ramsey Clark, US Attorney-General under President Johnson. Mr Clark said last week that he wants to see the attempt of Mr Hsu and other dissidents in the Pacific region to gain admission to their homelands and engage in opposition politics.

Three days ago police said that they would arrest Mr Hsu if he set foot in Taiwan. But foreign observers say that the Government reaction remains less than clear. It is thought that the Kuomintang, which has refused to give Mr Hsu a new passport or visa, might simply put him on the next aircraft out of the country.

Whatever the outcome of his return — and he has said that he drew inspiration from the late Benigno Aquino's return to the Philippines, which set in motion the revolution that toppled Mr Ferdinand Marcos — it will clearly put pressure on the DPP.

"Hsu is an adventurer and a romantic," according to Mr Antonio Chiang, aged 42, former editor of the banned dissident magazine, *The Eighties*, and a co-founder of the DPP. "If he returns, party

control could be lost. We want to present the DPP as the loyal opposition."

At the same time, of course, Mr Hsu's return would also put pressure on the Kuomintang. But not half as much pressure as President Chiang has himself brought to bear on his party of two million.

Foreign observers say that Mr Chiang is old, infirm and seeking to secure a place in history as an enlightened leader, much as Mr Deng is attempting to do on the mainland. Moreover, Mr Chiang believes that his designated successor, Mr Lee Teng-hui, vice-president of the Kuomintang, needs popular support if he is to govern effectively.

Perhaps most importantly, say experienced observers, recent corporate scandals in Taipei have shocked Mr Chiang by the extent of corruption in the Kuomintang that they have revealed. It is thought that he has come to the realization that any effort to clean up his party would of necessity destroy it. He therefore sees the creation of new parties as the only way to purify Taiwan politics.

What Peking and Taipei both fear from Taiwan's opposition parties is the development of a *bona fide* independence movement. Peking has said that it might be forced to invade Taiwan if such a movement succeeded.

"If he returns, party

Malacca patrols increased

Jakarta (Reuters) —

Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to increase security and joint patrols along the Strait of Malacca, one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

The agreement was announced yesterday by Indonesia's armed forces commander, General Benny Murdani, and the Malaysian Defence Minister, Mr Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Mr Abdullah said Indonesia and Malaysia would increase surveillance to prevent smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal fishing and pollution from tankers.

"The Strait of Malacca is a very strategic sea-lane that accommodates a large volume of maritime traffic. We should not rule out the occurrence of unlawful acts that could threaten the security and interests of both countries," Mr Abdullah said.

He said the two countries would tackle oil spillages together and would introduce an early-warning system and joint patrols to give quick information.

The Indonesian armed forces newspaper, *Harian AB*, said the measures would include naval and air patrols and co-ordinated radar coverage of the strait, which links the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea.

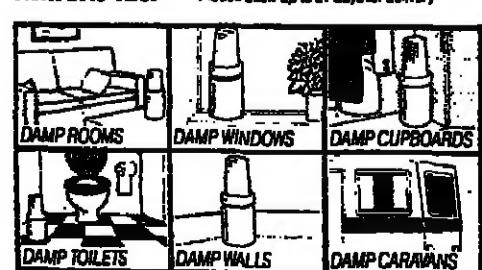
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Bangladesh factions in battle for campus

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Violence rocked the second largest university in Bangladesh yesterday as hundreds of pro-government students clashed with Muslim fundamentalists in a bid to take control of the campus, which was closed four days ago after bitter fighting.

Police in Chittagong, the port city about 150 miles south of Dhaka, said more than 300 people were wounded in week-long clashes at the university.

The office of the fundamentalist student organization, Chhatra Shibir, was burnt down.

Two students were reported missing and the university Vice-Chancellor, Mr Mohammed Ali, was injured when he was attacked by rival groups.

The opposition newspaper, *Banglar Bani*, said yesterday that several students hid in hills around the campus after police began to use force to evict rioters.

The National Students' Society, which supports the Government of President Ershad, has called for a general strike today to press for a ban on the Islamic student organization.

The attack on the fundamentalists came in the wake of calls by a top government official for a ban on the main Islamic political party, the Jamaat-i-Islami.

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Getting in to your good books

Launching three pages of gift ideas for Christmas reading. Times critics make their choice from the wide variety of books they have most enjoyed over the last 12 months

PROSE & POETRY

● Peter Ackroyd
I was impressed by the scholarship of the Oxford Shakespeare, published this year, edited by Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor (Oxford, £60), although my pleasure will be tempered until an edition employing the original spelling is delivered to my door. As far as prose is concerned, I most admired Shiva Naipaul's posthumous collection of essays, *An Unfinished Journey* (Hamish Hamilton, £10.95); and, in poetry, the most significant event this year was the publication of *Selected Poems* by John Ashbery (Corgi Press, £16.95).

FICTION

● John Nicholson
A splendid year for new fiction, an even better one for the Booker Prize. But the old boy needs no further help, so I'll go for: Dr Graber's Daughter (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95), an immediately diabolical offering from Janice Elliott (second year running for Miss E, but I can't resist her stuff); *The Bridge* (Macmillan, £9.95) by Ian Banks, which seems to have been too Kafkaesque for many critics, but impressed me with its cunning blend of surrealism and nostalgia for the 1970s; E. L. Doctorow's *World's Fair* (Michael Joseph, £9.95) for its depiction of simplicity and delight in the mind of a child.

● Isabel Knight
For me, this has been the year of Primo Levi: first the irresistible sweep of *If Not Now, When?* (Michael Joseph, £10.95); now the precise and intellectual *The Periodic Table* (Abacus, £3.95). Both are books to shake one's faith in humanity to its roots; both are crowned with the true optimism of the survivor of Auschwitz, Levi himself. At the end of each I like to cry out "Victory!" like Conrad, truly carried by the experience. I have also enjoyed, catching up on earlier novels, now in paperback, by Alice Thomas Ellis who is guaranteed to make me laugh at the most unlikely times: *The Sin Eater* and *The Other Side of the Fire* (Penguin, £2.95 each).

● Andrew Sinclair
The Fifth Son by Elie Wiesel (Viking, £9.95) is haunting and harrowing, not so much a testimony of the Holocaust as an inquiry into the roots of retribution and atonement, the strange mercy of God and the impossible vengeance of men. Penelope Lively's collected stories of the past nine years, *Pack of Cards* (Heinemann, £10.95) gave me infinite pleasure. And Alan Massie's adventure into historical fiction, *Augustus: A Novel* (The Bodley Head, £9.95) is convincing enough to be the Roman Emperor's missing memoirs.

● Elaine Feinstein
This has been a remarkably fine year for fiction. At the head of the list: John Updike's *Roger's Version* (André Deutsch, £9.95) is sharply written but never clipped, cool yet always alert. Updike enters the world of computer graphics with deceptive ease, to explore both the terror of finding God at the frontiers of science and some of the seedier corruptions of present-day America. In England, Paul Bailey's *Gabriel's Lament* (Corgi, £9.95) recaptures a detailed world of monster father and delicate mother.

● Philip Howard
This year, happily, an enjoyable book won the Booker Prize: *The Old Devils* by Kingsley Amis (Hutchinson, £9.95), though you need to be tough-minded to enjoy the graveyard and bottle-bank humour of this story of old friends, rivals and lovers in south Wales on the boozey path to the everlasting bonfire. I enjoyed nearly all the novels on the Booker and Whitbread short lists, and thought that *Starting at the Sun* by Julian Barnes (Corgi, £9.95) and *Immensee* by Penelope Fitzgerald (Corgi, £9.95) deserved to be up there. Wendy Cooper's *Making Cocoa* (Michael Joseph, £3.95) is notable for parodies and poems that are clever, candid, erotic and very funny.

● Gillian Greenwood
My favourite fiction this year came from abroad. The first was in January with the appearance of *White Noise* by the American Don DeLillo (Picador, £9.95), a writer who had not been published here before. This is a brilliant and funny novel about the fear of death, veering from the

domestic to the surreal in modern-day America. The other memorable publication was four novellas by Leonardo Sciascia under the title *Sicilian Uncles* (Corgi, £8.95). These powerful stories, each revolving around a particular historical moment, are set mostly in Sciascia's native Sicily.

● Stuart Evans
The Real Life of Alejandro Maga by Mario Vargas Llosa (Faber, £9.95). Set in an explosive Lima of the near future, the novel moves with characteristic mastery back and forth in time to examine the violent predicament of Peru and of Latin America, through a reconstruction of an obscure uprising in a provincial town led by a naive idealist revolutionary. The implications of social injustice that lead to such abhorrent paroxysms are, however, much wider.

● Nicholas Shakespeare
With his latest collection, *The News from Ireland* (The Bodley Head, £9.95), William Trevor confirms his position as the best short-story writer we have. Vividly sketching the forlorn lives of middle-aged men and women, Trevor shows himself at much at home in Florence as in Dublin.

Caryl Phillips's short second novel, *A State of Independence* (Faber, £8.95) is as haunting as his first. Phillips — a much younger exponent of exile than Trevor — returns his immigrant hero to the Caribbean. Indisputable novel of the year, though, *The Real Life* of Alejandro Maga (Faber, £9.95) by Mario Vargas Llosa. A brilliant portrait of a hopeless Peruvian revolutionary, it also happens to be technically breathtaking.

● Victoria Glasfearn
I greatly enjoyed Paul Theroux's *O-Zone* (Hamish Hamilton, £9.95), a disturbing adventure story of the near future, in an America where whole regions are lethally contaminated by radioactive waste, and Manhattan is a sealed city for the wealthy and healthy. My only criticism is that it goes on a bit too long — like, according to Kingsley Amis in *The Old Devils* (Hutchinson, £9.95), the irresistible Booker winner — a comedy of ill-manners about various disgruntled non-golden oldies set, alcoholically, in Wales.

the last theatre critic (anyway in this country) whose awaited notices curdled a playwright's blood. But he could make as well as break; his judgements were the truth that he saw. If the theatre was his life, his own life almost beat it for theatricality. Dr Harding, in what is for me a model biography, misses nothing of this, from the subject's stony output of words to his alarming sexual tastes and grotesque home-blanket overcast. Digging up the dead is easy, given the researcher's energy and zest, but often yields little beyond facts and footnotes. This examination restores the full man to larger-than-life life: clever, childish, outrageous.

● Hugo Vickers
It was almost impossible to obtain Robin Woods: *An Autobiography* (SCM Press, £12.95). There is no doubt that he revitalized the College of St George at Windsor during his brief spell as Dean.

● Fiona MacCarthy
In a poor year for life history, the greater welcome for the new volume of *The Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, £60) covering the decade 1971 to 1980, providing 748 biographies in one. For those who do not know it, it is just about impossible to give the exact flavour of this amazing enterprise, which, very far from being simply an old biographer's book, is a landmark of the grand old men on deceased members, proffer a highly critical, sophisticated, meditative, and at times a wonderfully entertaining commentary on British public life. It is full of sharp intelligence and unexpected tenderness, a book about the dead that makes one glad to be alive.

TRAVEL

● Allan Massie
Between the Woods and the Water by Patrick Leigh Fermor (John Murray, £13.95), is a perfect example of that most difficult form, the travel book. This story of a journey made half a century ago through Hungary and into Romania is not only beautifully, but happily, written. It is a deeply felt and often brilliant series of responses to Big Questions about the nature of tragedy.

BIOGRAPHY

● Woodrow Wyatt
Augustus Hare by Malcolm Barnes (Allen & Unwin, £20), delightfully revives the memory, too long neglected, of the water-colourist, travel book writer, guest at all the best and perhaps some of the worst houses, whose life spanned all Queen Victoria's reign. *The Dictionary of National Biography 1971-80* (Oxford, £60) is a treasure, £60 may seem a lot, but the 1,000 closely printed pages are far better value than six new novels costing more in aggregate. The skill of the editors Lord Blake and C. S. Nichols has ensured accuracy without spoiling the fun.

● Basil Beathroyd
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HISTORY

● J. Enoch Powell
Robert Reid's *Land of Lost Content: The Luddite Revolt* (Heinemann, £14.95) illuminates with haunting detail one episode in that Industrial Revolution which forever tantalizes the men of the 20th century, with its premonitions of so much that we have striven to grasp and to cope with in our own time. The young Luddite worsted-finisher George Mellor, who was hanged at York in the winter of 1812, and the hard-bitten Major General Maitland, who had him hanged, become immortal alongside the characters created by Thackeray and Dickens.

CRICKET

● Chris Patten
The Wisden Book of Obituaries compiled by Benny Green (Macdonald/Queen Anne Press, £29.95) has replaced the *Michelin Guide to France* as my main literary companion in the bathroom. It is invaluable for all who show a proper interest in the averages of dead cricketers.

ART

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There is nothing like a spice of raving megalomania to enliven a serious essay in art history. The artists of Morton D. Paley's *The Apocalyptic Sublime* (Yale, £30) were all a bit cracked, from Philippe Jacques de Loutherbourg to Francis Danby; and if they were given to talking with angels in the garden (like Blake) or hobnobbing on canvas with Belshazzar and his accident-prone biblical kin (like Martin), contemporaries readily supposed they were insane. But then, that kind of insanity was the door from Classicism to Romanticism.

SCI-FI

● Tom Hutchinson
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MILITARY

● William Jackson
Two books stand out: Nigel Hamilton's third volume of his *Monty* (Hamish Hamilton, £13) looks back at our recent past, and Jon Connell's *New Maginot Line* (Secker & Warburg, £12.95) peers into the clouded crystal of our future. Hamilton provides a fascinating study of the Field Marshal at the height of his career, and during his declining years when he was Western Europe's self-imposed military mentor. Both periods were sadly marred by his extraordinary personality defects. Jon Connell explores the equally grotesque flaws in current American military policy.

GARDENS

● Ruth Stungo
In a class of its own is Charles Raven's epic biography of the 17th-century naturalist John Ray, long out of print but now reissued with an introduction by S. M. Walters, *John Ray Naturalist* (Cambridge, £15). Product of an age which looked with renewed interest at the natural world and sought explanation and order, Ray, the blacksmith's son, was one of the first and greatest systematists.

PAPERBACK

● Anne Barnes
Among this year's best paperbacks must be Angela Carter's collection of short stories, *Black Venes* (Picador, £2.95), because it is full of surprise, finely tuned; Jane Gardam's *Creese's Daughters* (Abacus, £3.95) about courage and isolation; and perhaps Jonathan Raban's *Foreign Land* (Pan, £3.95) which, although overworded, does illuminate foreignness in various homely guises.

THRILLERS

● Tim Heald
Best thriller of the year was John le Carré's *A Perfect Spy* (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95), a classic genre-buster which surely deserved to be measured alongside the Booker-winning Amis. Best first effort was *Death in Leningrad* by John Lear (Pinto, £8.95), also — unlike so many artefacts under this heading — a real book by a real writer.

ARCHAEOLOGY

● Glyn Daniel
The Archaeology of Brittany, Normandy and the Channel Islands by Dr Barbara Bender (Faber, £14.95) is something we have all — amateur, professional, ordinary traveller — been waiting for. Dr Bender is

a professional archaeologist who has worked for many seasons in Normandy, and an amusing traveller with wide-ranging interests. Her book is authoritative and well illustrated with maps and plans. I have been visiting megalithic sites in southern Brittany for half a century; on a brief sentimental pilgrimage this autumn to the classic areas of Carnac and Locmariaquer I took this guide with me and found it accurate, detailed and full of wise and helpful new ideas.

Continued on next page



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CLASSICS

● Peter Jones
F. A. Wolf's epoch-making *Prolegomena to Homer*, first published in 1795 in Latin, is translated into English for the first time by Grafton, Most and Zetzel (Princeton, £30.20). This contentious work brought together all the arguments against a single "Homer" as composer of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and defined the terms of Homeric scholarship until oral theory arrived. Wolf claimed: "It deals with what happened, not with what one wishes had happened." But Wolf, like Goethe, found his head in conflict with his heart on the issue. H. A. Mason's *The Tragic Flame* (Oxford, £17.50) is not about airline disasters, but a deeply felt and often brilliantly illuminating series of responses to Big Questions about the nature of tragedy.

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CHRISTMAS BOOKS 2

Another case for Dalglish

CRIME

● Marcel Berlins

At the elegant, elegiac and famous end of the crime-writing spectrum, P. D. James's long (nearly 500 pages) *A Taste for Death* (Faber, £9.95) manages to combine superb writing, a bleak chilling story starting with the dual death of an MP and a tramp and, in Adam Dalglish, the most complex tormented police hero in fiction.

At the other extreme, *The Lolita Man* by Bill James (Constable, £8.95) is short and forceful. Its cast of blunt, tough, dissatisfied coppers is convincing; dialogue and descriptions are aggressive and unyielding; and the plot — a search for a sex murderer — is only too believable.

The most enjoyable of the American private eye imports was the cynically sensitive Amos Walker in Loren D. Estleman's *Sugartown* (Macmillan, £7.95), a fast and witty trip through Detroit's gloom to solve a 19-year-old murder.



Chilling stuff: another super thriller from P.D. James

More Christmas Books in the Books Page of December 11, including biographies, fiction, science, cooking, and gardens.

POETRY

● Peter Levi

The best new book of poems I read this year was the *Collected Poems of Elizabeth Jennings* (Corgi, £14.95). I do not understand the quality of permanence, but she has it; nor the power of poets to develop, but she certainly had that because her most recent work is her best. It must be something like good bone structure. The best new edition of poems is the Penguin *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, edited by John Kerrigan (£2.95), which uses brilliant recent work by K. Duncan-Jones to show how the entire collection subdivides and how the "Lover's Complaint", a grossly neglected poem, belongs with the Sonnets. This edition also gives a serious account of textual history. The Sonnets are inexhaustible but most editions are hopeless.

● Robert Nye

John Ashbery is master of that New York school of poets which flirts with nonsense,

delights all fans of the difficult and the obscure, eschewing any kind of clear subject-matter. Ashbery's friends and disciples throw words at the page much in the manner of Jackson Pollock hurling paint at a canvas, with results about as amusing as the average Rorschach test. I think it worth insisting that Ashbery himself has another dimension. The content of his work may be elusive, but the structures have grown increasingly beautiful and the effects compelling. His *Selected Poems* (Corgi, £16.95) seems to me a rich and inspiring book, an Arabian Nights' cave of treasures and entertainments. Beside it I would put the diametrically different excellence of C. H. Sisson's translation of *The Aeneid* (Corgi, £16.95), which makes a living Englishman of Virgil.

Postman (Heinemann, £5.95) with its richly inventive sequence of other-people's-letters for children to open and read for themselves — and how many will purloin Goldilocks's one pound note issued by the Bank of Wonderland? Among books for older children I would like to single out Ruth Elwin Harris's *The Silent Shore* (Julia MacRae, £7.95), carrying us from 1910 to 1920 in the first volume of a family saga that postpones paradise without recourse to false dramatics. Lastly, exceptional amid the pasty writing that goes on about children's books, is Margery Fisher's subtle assured exploration of the debatable land of the adventure story: *The Bright Face of Danger* (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95).

HISTORICALS

● Philippa Toomey

Nicole Rising by Dorothy Dunn (Michael Joseph, £9.95) was a splendid start to a historical series, set in 15th-century Burgundy, which I hope will occupy the author and me for the next 10 years.

CHILDREN

● Brian Alderson

Unequalled among this year's children's books is Allan and Janet Ahlberg's *The Jelly*

"...And you may be interested to know that the following BBC books are available to accompany the programmes you have most enjoyed this autumn."



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Jeffery Boswall

£10.95 hardback illustrated

THE FOOD AID COOKERY BOOK

Edited by Delia Smith with a foreword by Terry Wogan

£3.95 paperback illustrated

UNDER SAIL

Introduction by Tom Salmon

£5.95 paperback illustrated



TEST PILOT

Brian Johnson

£10.95 hardback illustrated



THREE MEN IN A GARDEN

A Practical Guide to the Complete Garden
Dr Stefan Buczacki, Clay Jones and Geoffrey Smith

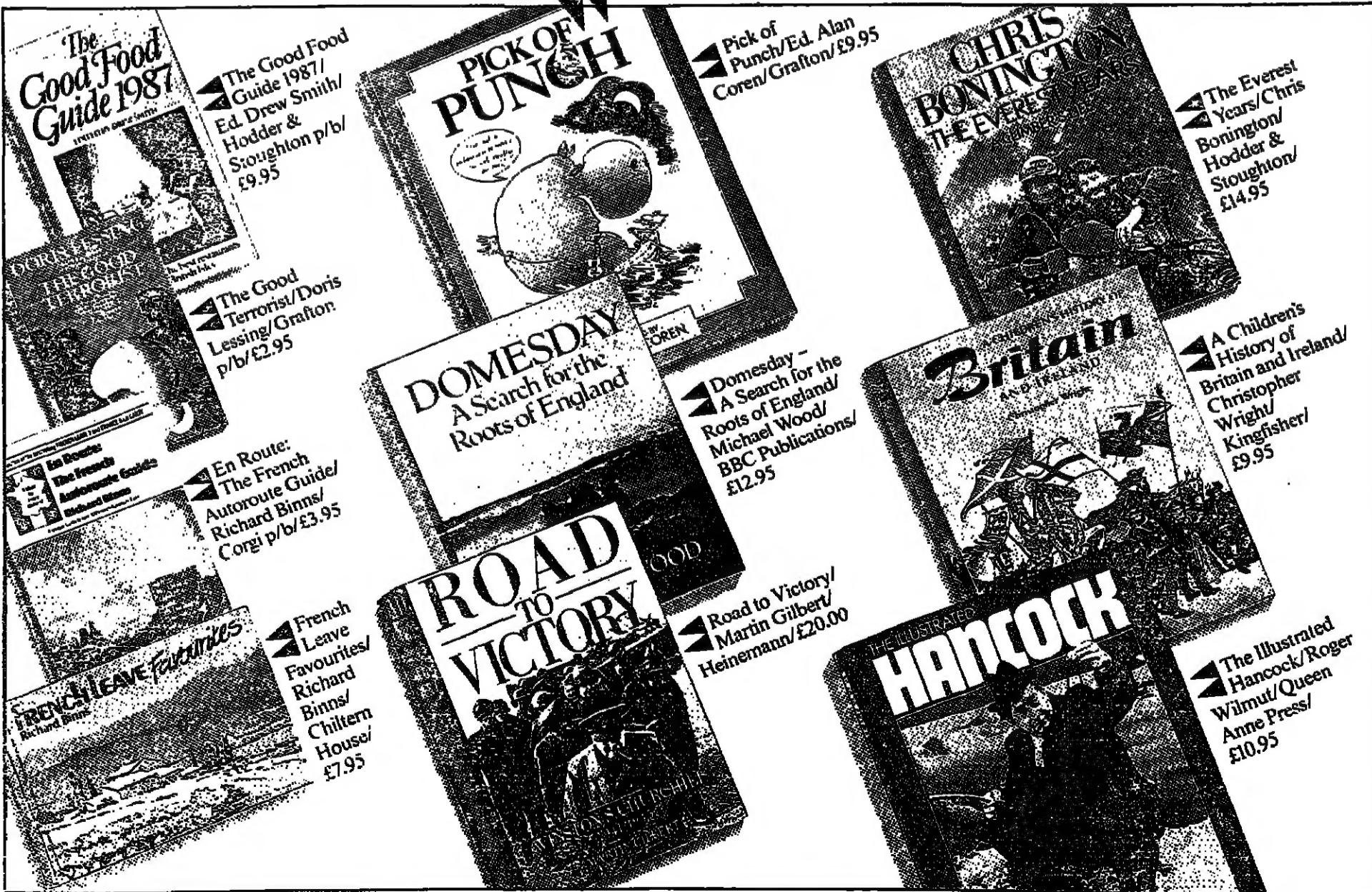
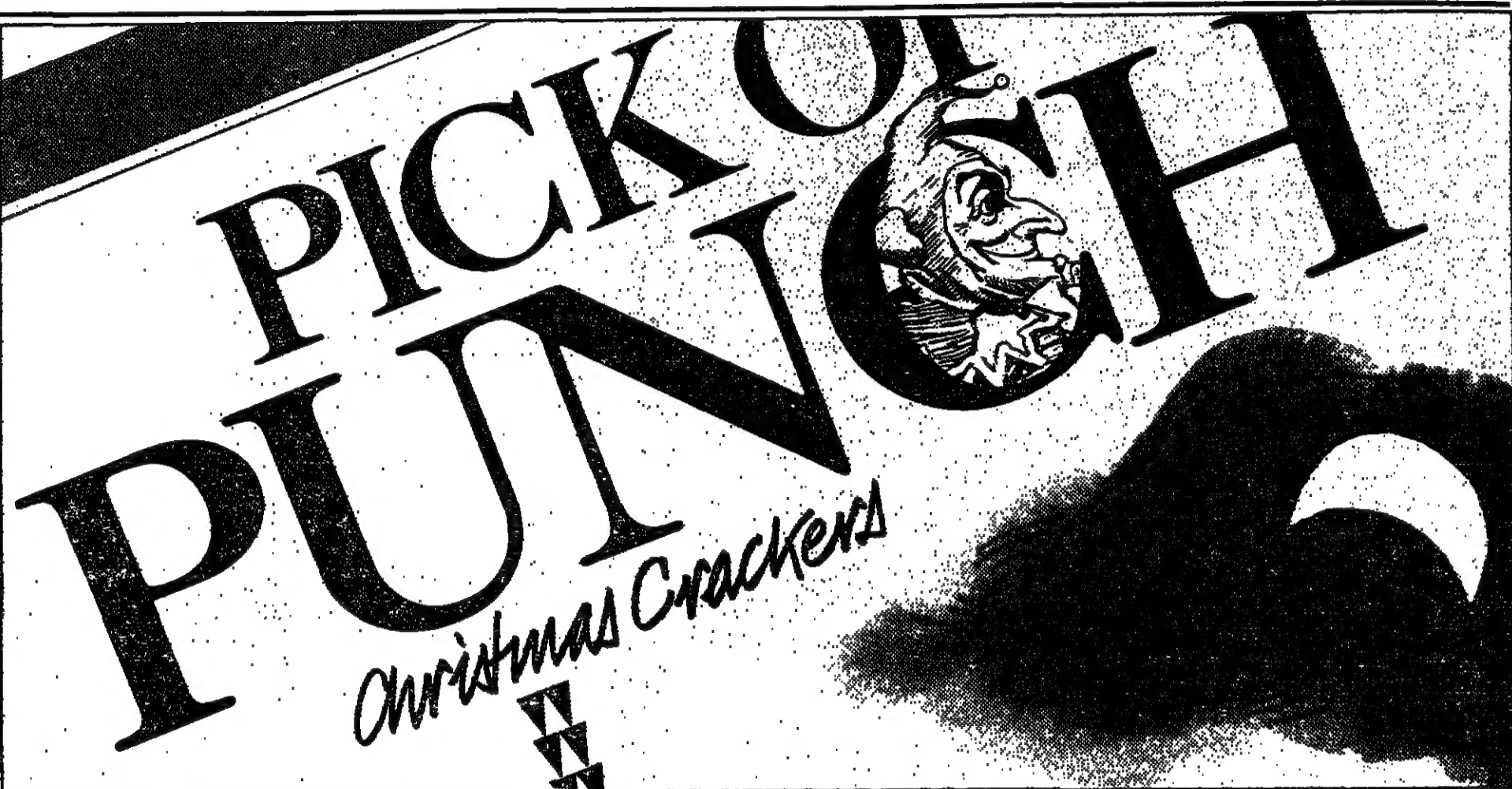
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David Lomax

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CHRISTMAS BOOKS 3

Funny as a fruit cake

HUMOUR

This year's fruit cake of Christmas funnies is even more solid and tasteless than usual. Put in your thumb and you will almost certainly pull out a bum. Only, therefore, dissects. One simple slicing separates the newly baked (65 per cent of the heap in front of me) from yesterday's crumble (today's) *repetita* (35 per cent). Of repeats, Alan Coren's *Something for the Weekend* (Robson, £6.95) is less stale than most. I liked his efforts to use the *Guardian* information-retrieval system ("Welcome to *Guarnaid* Database. Give name of the category you want." "Winter." "Wernit in Brian at least consists of five months," and so on).

Of the new, Miles Kingdon's *The Franglais Lieutenant's Woman* (Robson, £7.95) is the pick. Franglais-haters, like myself, can be assured that Franglais is quite irrelevant to the success of this sparkling collection — Northanger Abbey vs Mansfield Park, The Resistible Chalk Circle of Szechuan, Murder dans La Cathédrale (un Inspecteur T. S. Eliot Mystery) and La Gideon Bible: God's first act of creation is a Hotel Complex where He can rest on the seventh day and decide how to fill the empty Gideon Bible left in his room.

Alternatively, you can dissect by types of humour. Joke collections make up 35 per cent of the cake, but no real humorist tells jokes (can you think of a joke in P. G. Wodehouse?).

Collections of "essays" account for 30 per cent, cartoons for 15 per cent, and miscellaneous anthologies, biography, poetry and television scripts for the rest. Alvin Stardust's *Stories out of School* (Quiller, £6.95) gives us celebrities' stories of their school days but celebrities cannot write like Arthur Marshall. The glosses added by Lynn and Jay to their brilliant *Yes, Prime Minister* scripts (BBC, £8.95) strike me as ruinously ham-fisted.

But When Grandma fell off the Boat (Methuen, £9.95) is a must for those who do not know Harry Graham, the Saki-esque master of the light bite.

Billy, in one of his nice new sashes, fell in the fire and was burnt to ashes.

Now, although the room grows chilly, I haven't the heart to poke poor Billy.

Perhaps the most interest-

ing anthology is Hammer and Tongues, a dictionary of women's wit and humour compiled by Michele Brown and Ann O'Connor (Dent, £8.95). There is some rather American over-exercising in their freedom of speech, but Elizabeth Taylor unexpectedly scores. Told casually by Princess Margaret that a diamond she was sporting was rather vulgar, Taylor placed it lovingly on Margaret's finger commenting, "There, it's not so vulgar now, is it?"

A third slice carves the cake up by subjects. The pompous and self-important MPs, doctors — get the last laugh by writing about themselves in books that breathe sanctimonious self-satisfaction. Cricket and music save the day.

In a Dudley Moore's somewhat scrappy Musical Bumps (Robson, £7.95), I liked the story of Schnabel telling a poor student who could not afford his 5 guinea ones but could not recommend them. Laughter before the Wicket by Peter Haining (Allen & Unwin, £10.95) provides a superb feast of stories from (among others) J. M. Barrie, Trollope, Wodehouse, A. P. Herbert and Conan Doyle.

Whatever happens to these books after Christmas (transported off to a Book Mountain in Brussels and turned into suits for Russian Trade Delegations?) two will, I hope, escape the cut. History and Her Story by Riana Duncan (Robson, £5.95) gives "his and her" versions of history in cartoon form. The Adam and Eve sequences are especially memorable, and the whole book could serve as a sub-text to Jeffrey Bernard's *Low Life* (Duckworth, £9.95), a selection from his *Spectator* column complete with illustrations (three ex-wives included). Bernard's unswerving dedication to the confessed absurdities of booze, fags, the horses, unsuitable women, overspending and the law courts, have made him the archetypal Terrible Object Lesson, a Knight in Shining Black Armour who spends his life tilting at Windmill Girls on soft going, missing, and landing up in bed with the Inland Revenue and a shoe full of Chinese take-away. He will be sadly missed as Deputy Chairman of the Tory Party.

Peter Jones

PICTURE BOOKS

A Was an Apple Pie by Tracey Campbell Pearson (The Bodley Head, £4.50) Where better to start than with the longest book of the year — all six yards of it? The text is the traditional one with dreadful things happening to the poor pie at the hands of marauding children, and you can read it slice by slice or spread out along the hall carpet. Either way Miss Pearson's drawings are a continuous delight.

The Jolly Postman, or other people's letters by Janet and Allan Ahlberg (Heinemann, £5.95) The "other people" will be well enough known: Mr and Mrs Bear of Three Bears Cottage (a letter from Goldilocks), Mr V. Big of Mile High House (a postcard from Jack), HRH Cinderella (a complimentary copy of her biography from the Peter Piper Press) and so on. The letters and their appendages are all inside the book, tucked into envelopes which you can open as you turn the pages: a small work of genius. Why can't the book's jolly hero get a job with our Post Office instead of the insufferable Postman Pat, whose latest idiocies (all too close to actuality) have just been encapsulated in four "easy readers" (Hippo paperbacks, £1.50 each).

Dudley Books (four titles) by Judy Taylor, illustrated by Peter Cross (Walker Books, £1.95 each)

Four-title series seem to be fashionable this season, but this set about an engagingly dozy dourmouse deserves to be bought en bloc. The precisely drawn pictures have a lot of witty touches, the text is firm but unobtrusive, and the price is a public benefit. To some extent that goes for the "Four Square Meals" in Frank Muir's new What-a-Mess series too (Black, £2.95 each), but the continuing frantic behaviour of that Afghan puppy, coupled with Joseph Wright's almost entirely independent what-a-mess illustrations bring on nervous exhaustion half-way through Book Two.

The Twelve Days of Christmas by Sophie Windham (Macmillan, £5.50)

An advent calendar for the days that follow Christmas. Each page pictures the traditional true-life gift while, opposite, doors and flaps can be opened to reveal all the previous offerings. A beautiful piece of design, with some cleverly conceived variant pictures, especially for the partridge who has to appear in a dozen different poses.

The Marzipan Pig by Russell Hoban, illustrated by Quentin Blake (Cape, £4.95)

Earlier this year the Blake/Hoban team produced *The Rain Door*, a scary picture book about a thunderstorm, featuring a rag-and-bone man and a clockwork dinosaur (Cape, £5.95). Now they return with an apparently more sober but in fact more surreal, story in which an owl

falls in love with a taxi meter and a mouse tries to become an hibiscus. In lesser hands the whole thing would be catastrophic, but Russell Hoban writes with the compelling conviction

Noah's Brother by Dick King-Smith, illustrated by Ian Newsham (Collins, £5.95)

Deserving his accustomed territory of flying pigs and intellectual parrots, Dick King-Smith turns to an ark-full of comparatively normal

animals, presided over by Hazardik-ladoram, a member of Noah's family overlooked by the scribes of the Old Testament. I can't think why, since he is a far more engaging fellow than his pusillanimous relations and his story is more touching, and decidedly funnier, than theirs.

The Visitors by Angela Bull, illustrated by Valerie Littlewood (Hamish Hamilton, £3.25)

Queen Victoria, incognito on one of her Great Expeditions, must needs spend a night at a

Highland inn where Bonnie Prince Charlie is still revered. The story is deftly told, nudging the reader into secrets which the characters take more time to discover, and holding the worst of the expected sentimentality at bay.

Meeting Trouble by Roderie Jeffries (Hodder & Stoughton, £6.50)

Computer scientist under duress, his family under threat, the police complacent — how delightful that they can still all

be bested by a couple of teenagers. Mr Jeffries writes with the old-fashioned idea that children read stories to find out what happened next, as though social realism and heavy fantasy had never overtaken the Famous Five. What a welcome relief.

Isaac Champion by Janni Howker (Julia MacFarlane, £5.95) If we have to have social realism, then let it be with the full-blooded commitment of this powerful story of a feud between two horse-dealing families at the back end of the 19th century. Janni Howker's absorption in the detail of Lancashire working-class life allows her to tell her bleak tale in the convincing tones of her Champion protagonist. Hardly a book for the Christmas fireside, but it signals the maturing of a notable talent.

COLLECTIONS

The Happy Birthdays Book by Dennis Pepper and David Jackson (Oxford, £7.95)

It might have been more appropriate to recommend Dennis Pepper's new Oxford Book of Christmas Stories (£7.95), an excellent and smoothly produced anthology. For preference — for Christmas, too — is this birthday compendium: a great jumble of stories, jokes, verses and little-known facts (did you know that Captain Kirk has three ears? Left, right and final front). The whole boiling is set about with crowds of vulgar illustrations, very proper for the party season.

Christmas Tinseltown by Sue Nichols (Black, £8.95)

A more sober volume, as befits one intended "primarily as a teacher's resource book". But the good ideas for things to make and things to do, alongside some well-chosen stories, poems and carols, make it a handy parents' resource book too.

A Bag of Moonshine by Alan Garner, illustrated by Patrick James Lynch (Collins, £8.95)

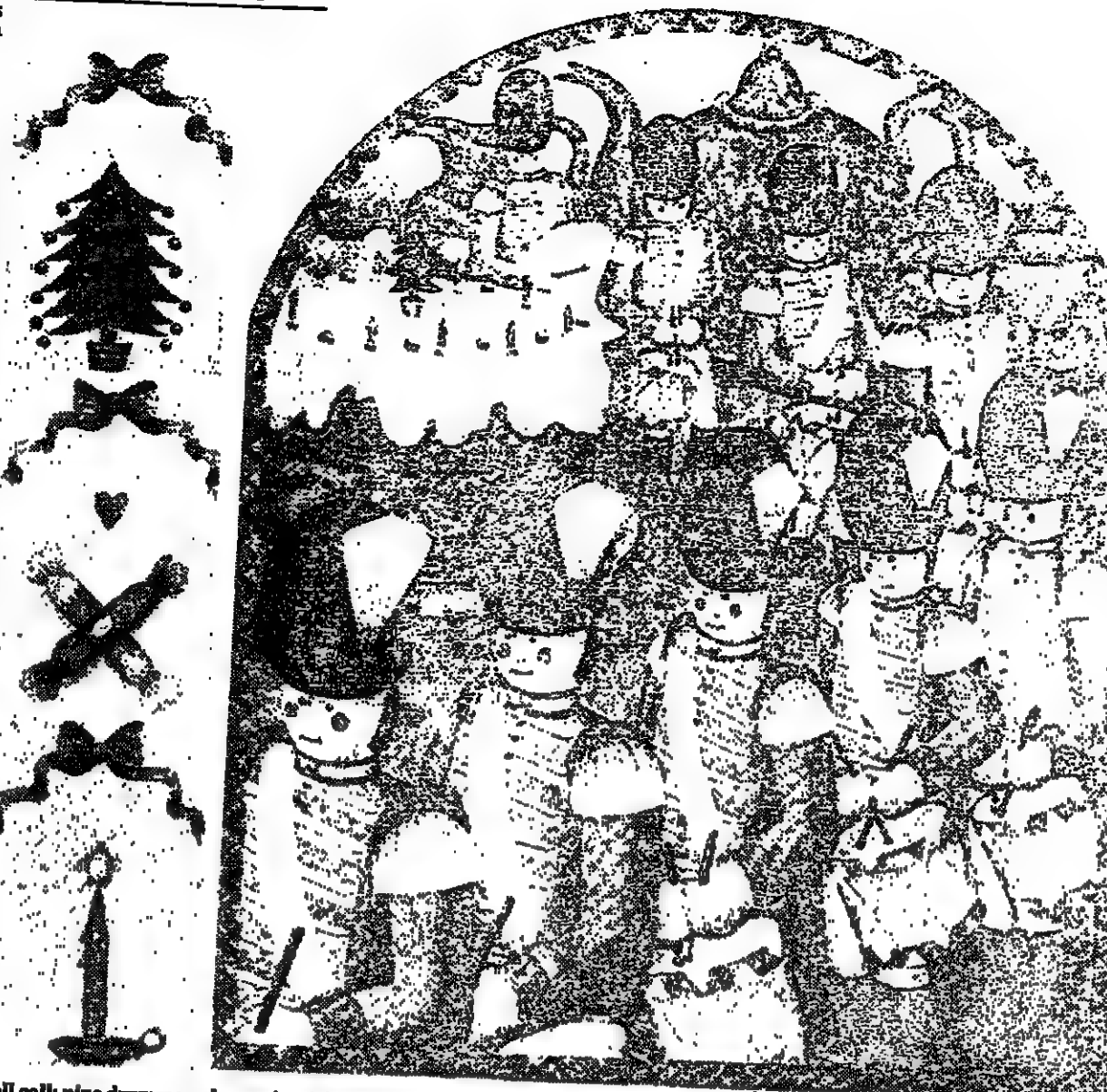
Twenty-two traditional British stories and riddles, some being variants on well-known tales ("Mollyndroun" is a Manx Rumpelstiltskin), others with more elusive echoes. The blurb cracks up Mr Lynch's sub-Rackham tales, but it seems to me that they needlessly intrude on Alan Garner's marvellous storytelling. With words like this, who needs drawings?

The reverse argument applies to *The Magic Ointment* and other Cornish legends (Andersen Press, £7.95) where Eric Quayle's leaden prose is much enhanced by Michael Foreman's pictures, dramatic and skilful by turns.

Animal crackers

CHILDREN'S

Did you know that Captain Kirk has three ears? Brian Alderson finds some astonishing facts and affectionate fictions in his selection for small readers



Roll call: nine drummers drumming (above) and page decorations from *The Twelve Days of Christmas* by Sophie Windham

FICTION

Through a glass sharply

WINE

The autumn collection of books on wine and allied drinks sorts itself automatically into the fat and the thin. There are the Falstaffs, best consulted with a handy table nearby to rest them on: not at all suitable for a comfortable bedtime read. Then come the pocket guides, pioneered by Mitchell Beazley, which slide into the jacket as neatly as an examination crib or an opera libretto.

This year tends to be sharp, especially in the case of Champagne and Sparkling Wine (Mitchell Beazley, £4.95) by our own Jane MacQuitty. Seagram's are unlikely to be raising a glass to her for saying that the Heidsieck Dry Monopole NV "is currently a dull and disappointing mouthful with some curious nuances of flavour". Nor does the Charles Heidsieck fare any better: "very disappointing over the past few years".

Jane MacQuitty's strength is that she seems to have tasted, noted and assessed everything, right down to a number called Omar Khayyam which is made outside Bombay — with a little help from Piper Heidsieck.

This improbable product also finds a mention in Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 1987 (Mitchell Beazley, £4.95) now in its tenth edition. This is basically a compendium of names, titles and terms, which stretches from

the obvious to the very recherché: Mr Johnson finds more Belgian grape varieties and wines than were ever dreamt of on the road to old Stamboul. I question, though, a final section headed "Wines at their peak in 1987", which lists no fewer than eight vintages of grands crus classes. If so then there really is a heavy drinking year ahead.

The most important of the fat books is Jancis Robinson's *Vines, Grapes and Wines* (Mitchell Beazley, £16.95), which is the first in my experience to analyse wine through the grapes that actually produce it. Why did no one think of it before? Miss Robinson may have got her boots muddy tramping through the vineyards in search of rare grape varieties, but she keeps her thoughts as crisp and clean as those of Miss MacQuitty.

The illustrations tend to be decorative rather than helpful: who can tell a bunch of Australian Tarrango grapes from a Californian Ruby Cabernet in sepia? The maps point in all directions of the compass and put the Blaufrankisch on the wrong side of the Austro-Hungarian border. But the quality of the enterprise is beyond dispute.

The maps in Hugh Johnson's *The Atlas of German*

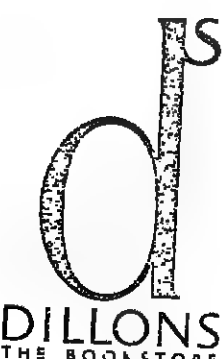
Wine (Mitchell Beazley, £14.95) run, thank goodness, north to south. This is basically a gazetteer for anyone driving around the German vineyards. The practical rais shoulders with the pompos, as when in Würzburg the author samples "the immortal vintage of 1546".

The prize for the worst writing — or translation — goes to Beaujolais: The Complete Guide (Michael Joseph, £19.95). When wine-makers are described as knowing "how to direct whole orchestras of organoleptic elements and subtle aldehydes, till they reach a crescendo of sweetness" we are swept into the world of the tourist office brochure and maybe reach for a glass of something stronger than Beaujolais. Never mind, the illustrations are pretty.

The prize for the best composed book must be awarded to Nicholas Faith's *Cognac* (Hamish Hamilton, £15). His evocation of the past is as convincing as his judgement on the present, a gloomy one with static sales and once famous names either going to the wall or being taken over. There is no consolation to be drawn from the story of rising cognac consumption in Detroit because certain drug dealers devised a substance called "black-snack", a mixture of brandy and cocaine.

John Higgins

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TRAVEL 1

The island of peace, pedals and puppets

I always thought the proper way to approach any place was by foot. But not a town in Java like Jogjakarta. The proper way is by pedicab made for two or three and a sack of rice. Their mudguards are painted brightly, bearing powerful and exotic names: Rocket, Laju, Apollo, Aha.

Java is a long, lanky island that sports a central chain of volcanoes running west to east: Pangrango and Gedeh, Malabar and Slamet, the twins Merapi and Merapi above Jogjakarta, then Lawu and the perfect crater of Mount Bromo, best seen smoking at dawn.

Only one pedicab was painted as a central chain of volcanoes running west to east: Pangrango and Gedeh, Malabar and Slamet, the twins Merapi and Merapi above Jogjakarta, then Lawu and the perfect crater of Mount Bromo, best seen smoking at dawn.

A pedicab to the main shopping street leading from the sultan's palace, the Malioboro, is a journey

HOT SPOTS

Javanese life moves at the perfect pace for
Andrew Sinclair

through Javanese street life. Pony-carts with bright brass carriage lamps come clipping by the bicycles and the scooters. Trucks and orange buses bulging with passengers belch by, respecting the pedicabs crawling along as part of the road.

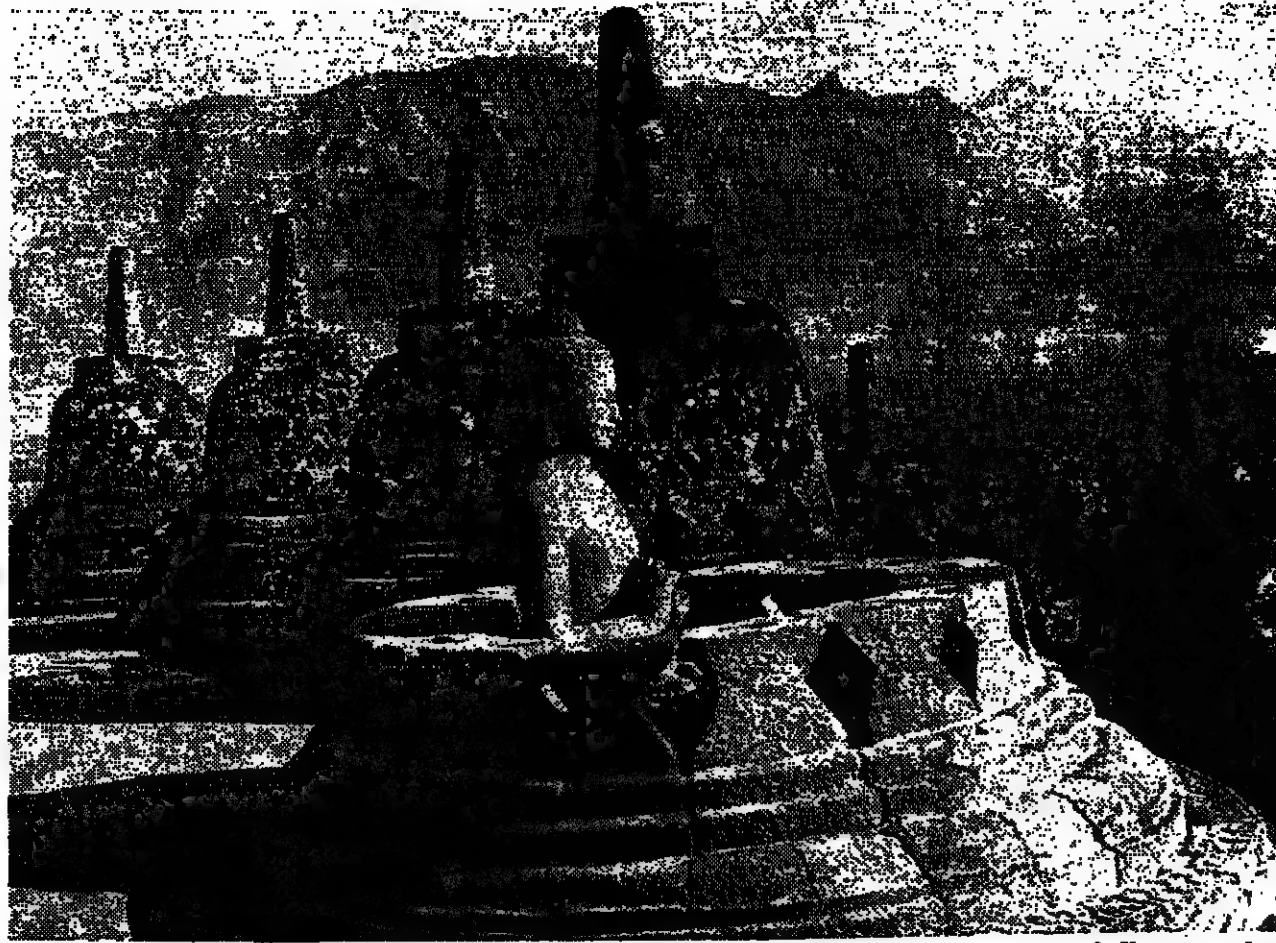
Water-carriers with twin tanks on the ends of a long pole, old women in sarongs with dried gardens on their heads, nuns in violet habits in jeeps, buffaloes and ducks and cocks — all pass as slowly as ourselves. There is no strain

except for the man standing at the pedals behind.

The walk down the Malioboro is through an avenue of painted leather and weird shells, stickers for Rambo and Madonna and piles of strange fruits, the best of which is the rambutan, its sweet-sour white flesh hidden within a hairy shell.

For most people, Jogjakarta is a stopover between Bangkok and Bali. But it is more: it is the cultural capital of Java. About 1,250 years ago, the Buddhist ruler of the Mataram empire in Java decided to earn his place in his heaven by a mighty deed of merit. At Borobudur he began the construction of the greatest of all the step pyramids. The lower three terraces represent the life that must pass; the middle three the renunciation of desire by those seeking the Way; the top three platforms show nirvana, the Buddhist heaven. Delicate frescoes of sinners and of the birth of Buddha surround the lower levels, with episodes from his life, and allegories of metamorphoses to a higher sphere continuing on the rising platform; statues of the seated Buddha fill every niche and corner.

Many of these Buddhas are headless because of those executors called collectors or museums. The pinnacle of the monument contains a



Calm contemplation: on the step pyramid of Borobudur, the Buddha gazes over the valley towards the encircling mountains

chamber without a Buddha. He has entered nirvana. We contemplate nothingness.

The approach to Borobudur is along a curving walk, scented with a honeyed mint. The steps up to the monument on its green hillside do not anticipate the wonder of its site. Looking past ornate railings or the tight curls on the back of a Buddha's head, the eye flies like a hawk to the wrinkles and runnels on the green of the slopes and the valley is vivid and virulent: a green of paddy field and palm and banana, the rich verdure from rain and monsoon.

The far volcanoes to the centre of Java raise their slanting shoulders to a head of a cloud. They seem to suck out

the floods that bathe the crops and the people most afternoons.

At the Hotel Ambarukmo Palace there is a floating octagonal restaurant, the Bale Kambang, where we sit with our feet in small circular holes under the tables and Javanese waiters kneel to serve us "royal" Indonesian cuisine, mainly satay on sticks, spiced chicken and rice, and peanut sauce with everything.

Jogjakarta is a sultan's city, radiating from his palace, a wonderland of ornate pavilions and gilded beams, suggesting limitless wealth as palaces should. The present sultan was a great supporter of the Indonesian republican guerrillas, including the present President General Suharto. The palace was their

base. Accordingly, the sultan has kept some power and great reputation, although the power seems no more real than the puppet play that we saw on our way out of the Bale Kambang.

In front of an orchestra of squatting gong-players, smiling uncontrollably and puffing their exotic cheroots, sat a demented, dark magician, his teeth protruding past his black lips and blacker turban.

Ranged on either side of him and his little stage were three dozen puppets, the white-faced ones fine and sensitive, the red-faced ones angry and demonic, with sticks, attached to each hand, which the puppeteer manipulated with frenzy.

Gongs beating, a lone woman sang like a banshee

and the puppeteer gabbled and yelled. Bang-bang-bang, the white-faced puppet would slap the red-faced villain. Bang-bang-bang, the red-faced villain would riposte.

The puppet show was interminable but hypnotic. There was no sense of drama, of timing, of climax, only of episodes which could have gone on all night.

In this Muslim island, the art of the ancient Hindus and Buddhists is the monument to peace. There is a vast tolerance here until the next eruption, volcanic or religious, divine or human. Java has a measured pace, slow, a pedicab speed that makes us see more of the people behind that puppet show which is usually presented to us on a tour abroad.

New ways to the West Indies

TRAVEL NEWS

Speedbird Holidays, part-owned by British Airways, has published a special brochure detailing its expanded programme of long-haul holidays based on Concorde flights. It is running four round-trips to the Caribbean on Concorde in January and February to feed in to holidays on Barbados and Antigua with connections to other islands, including St Lucia and Grenada.

The programme also includes Concorde's round-the-world air cruise departing from Heathrow on March 7 for an 18-day tour which includes visits to Moscow, Cairo, Delhi, Beijing, Guam, Honolulu, Mexico City, Barbados and New York. The price is £14,995, based on twin occupancy of hotel rooms or £15,790 inclusive of single-room supplement. Information from agents or from Speedbird on 01-741 8041.

Summer sails

First of the major ferry operators to announce its plans for next summer is Townsend Thoresen. A family of four will be able to travel with their car from Dover to Calais, Ostend or Zeebrugge from £65 one-way in the peak season, only £3 more than last summer. Townsend Thoresen will also be offering lower fares on selected peak-season sailings to Calais. Information: 0384 203388.

The cost of travelling from London to Dublin by rail and sea from Holyhead or Liverpool has been cut by 17 per cent, to £39. It will be valid up to December 17 and from January 26 until further notice. Information from British Rail travel centres.

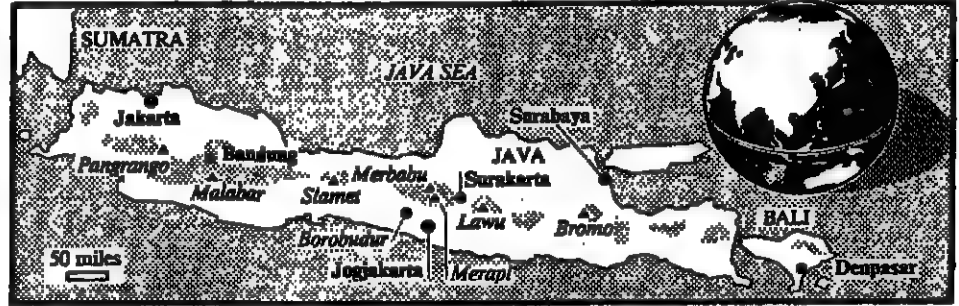
Book bargains

Knoel has just published the first of a series of quarterly "Limited Edition" brochures listing long-haul holiday bargains which include long-weekend breaks in California at £299, seven nights in Mexico for £449, and a seven-night Nile cruise from £349. Information: 0306 885044.

Philip Ray

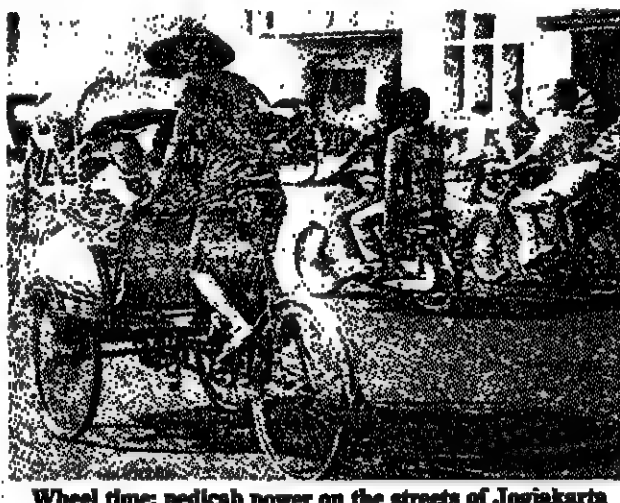
WEATHER EYE

Daytime temperatures at sea level are generally in the upper eighties, but it tends to be cooler at higher altitudes. The humidity is always uncomfortably high at sea level, but becomes more bearable higher up. Winter is the wettest time of year with dry, sunny mornings, heavy afternoon showers and frequent rainy days.

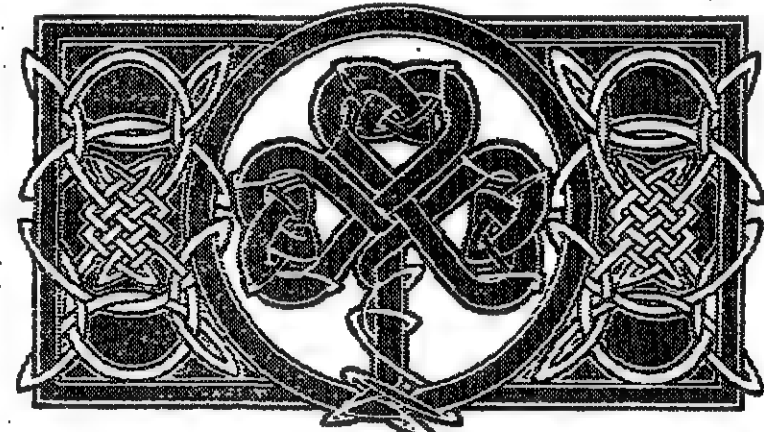


TRAVEL NOTES

Java is most economically visited on a round-the-world ticket from a specialist travel agent like Trailfinders (01-937 8531) or Reno Travel (01-405 8555). Expect to pay about £1,000 for economy class. The most convenient airport for Jogjakarta is Denpasar, Bali. A double room at the Ambarukmo Palace Hotel costs about £55 a night.



Wheel time: pedicab power on the streets of Jogjakarta



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TRAVEL 2



Fairyland: the pretty ski resort of Ehrwald in Austria, canopied in several inches of snow

Nostalgic journey to ski in the distant past

Skiing has to be reckoned an extravagance, even for us insatiable addicts who have come to regard the annual fix as pretty well a necessity. So to combine it with a largely irrelevant journey on the Orient Express might seem to be overgilding the lily.

But it was, as they say, an invitation one could not refuse, and on a murky March morning the departure from Victoria in the plush comfort of a Pullman carriage, champagne to hand and the prospect of a leisurely lunch to follow, seemed in every way superior to the frenzy and discomfort of Gatwick Airport.

The journey fulfilled nearly all our expectations, the restaurant car at dinner time replete with fancy-dress travellers who might have been recruited straight from Central Casting for an Agatha Christie film. Later, awakened by the jolting night-time stops through Switzerland, listening to the station announcements echoing across empty platforms, over breakfast beginning the long familiar haul up to the Arlberg, I was reminded of skiing holidays in the distant past, of overnight specials with disco music blaring down the corridors and the floors swash with spilled drinks.

I have to admit to a hopeless

John Young indulges himself with a ticket to Austria in the sedate luxury of the Orient Express

bias in favour of Austria. I know it does not always have the long steep "hairy" runs to be found around the concrete resorts that have been grafted on to the high treeless slopes of Savoy and Valsais. You may need a car or bus to get from your hotel to the ski-lift instead of an elevator from your apartment. You may have to queue for longer than you would like and, in the absence of a technological miracle of interconnecting lifts and pistes, you may have to ski the same slope several times.

At Ehrwald, the three-stage cable car up to the summit of

the Zugspitze is said to be the oldest in Europe, and looks it. Not only does the journey take a painfully long time, but it involves much climbing of steps and tramping of passages, and the glacier skiing at the top is not very exciting when you get there. The Ehrwaldalm, on the other side of the town, is much prettier, although it would have little appeal to dedicated piste-bashers.

So what is the appeal of Austria, other than middle-aged nostalgia, romanticism and satisfaction with something not too demanding? It is hard to say, but I know that the wooden glades nowadays bring a lifting of the spirits such as I have never known on the altiplano of the Inca.

On our first morning, as we stood in brilliant sunshine, the woods canopied with several inches of overnight powder, my colleague from the Sunday Times and I were moved to admit that it was prettier even than Wapping.

TRAVEL NOTES

Crystal Holidays' prices range from £159 for one week half-board to £459 for two weeks, including air fare depending on the time of season. The equivalent prices,

travelling by coach, are from £129 to £419. There are reductions of 20 per cent for children under five and 15 per cent for those under 11 travelling by air. Travelling by the Orient Express, one way, costs £249 more.

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BLADON LINES

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"Where in the world did Franz Klammer learn to ski?"

It was on the Austrian mountains of Carinthia that Franz Klammer, the greatest downhill skier of all time, learnt his skills. Many championships later, he still returns to his native mountains for their unrivalled slopes and après ski atmosphere, with good food, hot drinks and lively entertainment.

Of course we can't guarantee you such fame, but we can offer you the chance to win a fabulous holiday for two and a unique video in which Franz Klammer takes to the slopes of Carinthia once more, showing Duncan Goodhew and Sharon Davies how it should be done.

For full details of Carinthia's fabulous resorts and entry into our free competition contact: The Austrian National Tourist Office, Carinthia Dept, 30 St. George St, London, W1R 0AL (Tel. 01-629 0461).

Carinthia Austria

SHOPPING

A bedtime story

A new hi-tech range of electric duvets can read body language. **Nicole Swengley investigates**

Duvets sparked a bedtime revolution when they were introduced to Britain 15 years ago. An estimated 60 per cent of households snuggle under them but, despite their popularity, English fans of continental quilts have gradually discovered faults with their new-found bed-mates. Typical English summers, for instance, mean that temperatures may be in the seventies one night and dip below fifty the next. And winter creates extreme problems for duvet owners with a low tog rating (the measure of how quickly body heat escapes through the quilt).

Then, there's the perennial problem of cold feet, warm nose — and, worse still, quarrels between sleeping partners who aren't comfortable in bed at the same temperature.

To solve these dilemmas, Northern Blankets, a leading electric blanket manufacturer, spent 10 years — and a massive £15 million — researching the answers. And they've come up with a "thinking" duvet, a "body responsive" quilt which detects the sleeper's cold parts and hot spots and accordingly adjusts the temperature of the duvet.

Hidden inside the duvet is a



All togged up: snuggle under a new electric duvet with automatic temperature control

special heating element which will heat the duvet to a pre-selected level and monitor the temperature of its surroundings.

This brainy duvet also features a dial-a-tog facility so, with a cosy capability of a 17.5 tog rating for sudden cold snaps, it can also be used as a summer-weight quilt of 4.5 togs.

Like an ordinary continental quilt, the duvet fits standard covers and can safely be hand or machine washed. It

costs £59.99 (single) and £72.99 (double). To keep both partners happy, the double and kingsize duvets are available with individual bedside controls (£84.99 and £99.99 respectively).

The body responsive duvet is currently marketed under the Rowenta label but next year is likely to be sold under the Sunbeam brand-name. (For enquiries, contact Northern Blankets (061 652 1211).

Dreamland's new electric Superduvet is also a quilt for

all seasons. After pre-heating the bed, its setting can be switched to the chosen temperature then safely left on all night. Behaving like a thermostat, the control unit responds to fluctuations in bedroom temperature, automatically adjusting the heat generated. So, from a minimum of 4.5, the tog value can be increased to over 20 to outwit Jack Frost's frigid fingers.

Like Northern Blankets' heated duvet, Superduvet is machine washable and com-

plies with BEAB standards for electrical safety and BSI standards for conventional duvets. It costs £59.95 (single), £79.95 (double) £89.95 (kingsize).

Less hi-tech, perhaps, double duvets also cope with the problem of temperature changes. Habitat's Trio consists of two separate quilts, a summer one of 4.5 togs and another with a nine tog rating for spring and autumn.

Fastened together with Velcro, Trio mutates into a double-thickness winter-weight quilt of 13.5 togs. Both quilts are filled with ICT's machine washable, non-allergic Superloft polyester. It costs £45.95 (single), £68.95 (double) and £79.95 (large double).

Fogarty's non-allergic, machine washable Microduo duvet works along similar principles, clipping together with plastic poppers. It contains "Microfill", a blended polyester fibre and costs £40 (single), £55 (double), £67 (kingsize).

Dorma also offer an "All Seasons" quilt in their Country Diary collection. Like Microduo, one quilt has a 4.5 tog value, while the other has a nine tog rating and the pair fasten together with Velcro. It's padded with ICT's Terylene Hi-Spun filling fibre and costs £49.95 (single), £69.95 (double) and £83.95 (kingsize).

Another version, Puffin's "Four Seasons" duvet also contains ICT's Terylene Hi-Spun filling fibre and sells for £45.95 (single), £65.95 (double) and £78.95 (kingsize). Puffin also have a His and Hers duvet.

Ritz night and knock-down gifts

If you've always thought that gift vouchers lack the glamour of more personal festive offerings, then think again.

The Ritz has introduced a pink parchment gift voucher which includes two nights' accommodation for two people in a twin or double room. English breakfast in the Ritz restaurant on both mornings (or in your room if you prefer)

NEWSLINES

and a bottle of Ritz pink champagne on arrival.

The cost? A mere £240 which, we are assured, is a saving of nearly £200. Vouchers are valid from January 1 to March 31, 1987 and available from the hotel reception or by post from The Sales Office, The Ritz, Piccadilly, London

WIV 9DG.

● Turkey and Christmas pudding are traditional ingredients on the Christmas menu, but what can you serve as a starter?

Gravid Lax makes a delicious alternative to predictable soups and requires very little preparation. It was originally made by the Finns over 100 years ago by curing salmon in dill weed to acquire its unique flavour. Buy it pre-sliced in vacuum packs by mail order to simplify shopping from Rickling Hall, Quendon, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3YJ. Tel: (079 988) 487.

It costs £10.50 per pound including postage and pack-

ing. For overseas deliveries, please order by December 3, adding an extra £3.60 (Europe) and £5.10 (USA). Serve it with dill mustard, £1 per 225g pot from Rickling Farm Foods, and thin slices of brown bread.

● Bonham's Christmas Sale may well answer perennial present-finding problems. On Thursday December 4 at 6pm a special auction sale in Knightsbridge will include a range of unusual gifts with prices starting around £30. Silver tankards, snuff boxes, scent bottles, tea caddies, jewellery and carriage clocks will be among the items for auction, each vetted by Bonham's for authenticity.

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Home-made confectionery, cakes, and jams can make an ideal seasonal gift



After gold, frankincense and myrrh, there is no more traditional Christmas present than a gift of food.

Preserves of all kinds, even the great Yorkshire pies containing fabulous mixtures of birds and stuffings baked in fortresses of pastry, and the gaps filled with melted butter to exclude the air and prolong freshness, endured long journeys on winter roads without benefit of refrigeration or the vacuum pack.

Sides of smoked salmon, cheeses, hams, jams, preserves, pickles and cakes are still sent packing far afield, bringing with them a taste of home or of unaccustomed luxury.

Postable home-made presents include all the long-standing favourites like fudge and fruit cake which can be relied upon to arrive more or less in one piece. When hand-delivery is possible, unlimited opportunities offer themselves.

An antique jelly mould could be filled with a festive jelly of spiced port wine, or one made with fresh fruit. Plain or fancy tines can be filled with noisette fish, or vegetable pâté or with robust pork or game mixtures. Casseroles can be packed with packets of dried provencal herbs, and smaller dishes filled with home-made or hand-made chocolates.

Jams and other long lasting sweet preserves like mincemeat need only pretty packaging, but shorter lived confections like real lemon curd may need a note about keeping it in a refrigerator.

If there are any Seville oranges still in the freezer from last January, use them now to make orange curd instead of the traditional lemon recipe, or use fresh times which are plentiful at the moment.

LEMON, ORANGE OR LIME CURD

Makes about 1.35 kg (3 lb)

- 8 juicy lemons, 8 limes or 4 Seville oranges
- 225g (8 oz) unsalted butter
- 570g (1 1/4 lb) caster sugar
- 8 large fresh eggs, freshly laid if possible

Thoroughly wash and dry the jars or pots and put them into a cold oven. Switch on the oven and set it to very cool (110°C/225°F, gas mark 1/4). This will sterilize the jars, and by putting them into a cold oven there is no danger of cracking.

Wash and dry the lemons or limes. Finely grate the zest and squeeze and strain the juice. If

using frozen Seville, grate the zest while the oranges are frozen hard, then leave them to thaw before squeezing the juice. The rind is too soft to grate once they have thawed.

Put the juice and grated zest into the top of a large double saucepan, or into a bowl over a pan of hot water. Add the butter and sugar and heat over hot water until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved completely.

Beat the eggs lightly and pour them through a sieve into the fruit mixture. Cook the mixture, still over hot water, stirring constantly until the curd thickens enough to coat the back of a wooden spoon. If it is allowed to boil it will curdle and spoil.

Take the jars out of the oven and allow them to cool for a minute or two before pouring in the curd. Fit each jar with a waxed paper disc, placed wax side down on the curd and pressing out any air bubbles. Cover and label the jars, and as soon as they are cool, store them in the refrigerator.

Top quality ingredients add up to really good mincemeat. Cooking qualifications are not required to make memorably good mincemeat, but a mincer or food processor comes in handy. Melted butter, stirred in at the end, can be substituted for the suet without changing the keeping qualities of the mincemeat.

MINCEMEAT

Makes 1.8 kg (4 lb)

- 450g (1 lb) cox's orange pippins
- 450g (1 lb) stored muscovado or lava raisins
- 225g (8 oz) currants
- 225g (8 oz) candied orange peel
- 110g (4 oz) candied lemon peel
- 170g (6 oz) dark muscovado sugar
- 225g (8 oz) shredded suet
- 110g (4 oz) finely chopped almonds
- Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon fresh mixed spices
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 6 tablespoons whisky or brandy

Peel and core the apples and pass them through a mincer fitted with its coarse blade, together with the raisins, currants, and candied orange and lemon peel. Alternatively, grate the apple and use a food processor to cut the peel very finely before mixing both with the raisins and currants.

Add the sugar, suet, chopped almonds and lemon zest and mix well. Stir in the mixed spice and nutmeg, followed by the lemon juice and whisky or brandy.

Pack the mincemeat into sterilized pots or jars, (see previous recipe) seal, label, and store in a cool place, out of direct light. The flavour matures with keeping, ideally for at least four weeks, and up to a year.

Shona Crawford Poole

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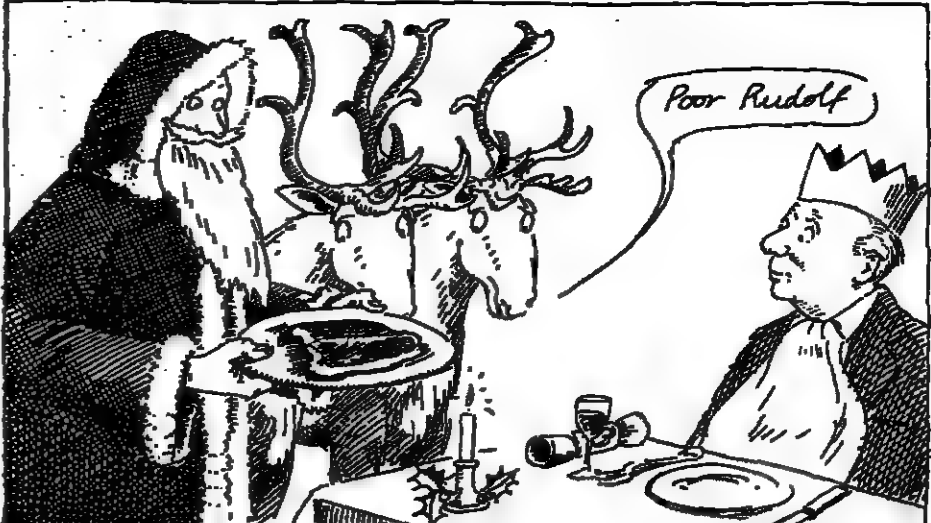
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EATING OUT

A great escape

If you can't face sharing another traditional Christmas at home with boring relatives, Jonathan Meades suggests some comfortable hotels where you can get away from it all



Trial by uncle, trial by in-laws, trial by the sociopath who "traditionally" spends Christmas with you (but who, the rest of the year, when sanity gets the better of conscience, goes ignored)...

There's no doubt about it, Christmas is the time when bores come out of the woodwork, when cousins (whose conversation is a litany of gifts given and received) creep round the door, when frightful children tug your arm thus interrupting Des O'Connor's fascinating chat with Michael Parkinson - then is the time to bolt. But where to?

Why not escape from the relatives by shutting up house and heading for a good restaurant or hotel with a top chef for a bit of peace? The only criterion I've used in selecting those mentioned below is that they won't make you suffer that terminally English torture called All the Trimmings.

If you don't escape for Christmas, then New Year is gastronomically less dangerous. Indeed there is something to celebrate at New Year - the end of the enforcedly idle week that has preceded it.

CHRISTMAS

Ellington Park Hotel near Aldermaston, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 740745)

The building is a perverse gem, it's in a Gothic so muscular that it looks like an asylum at best, a public school at worst. The dining room is massive and neo-rococo. The dining-room is all heraldic marquetry.

There are two fine chefs here: Michael Quinn who was formerly at the Ritz and is now on the telly, and Barry Foster who is shortly to leave for Longueville Manor in Jersey - which is good news for this island and bad for the south Midlands.

The place is doing a Christmas package which extends from the evening of December 24 till post breakfast on the 27th. The cost is £115 per person per night and includes bed, VAT, grub but not drink. There are some reasonable attractions such as carol singing and a visit from Father Christmas - Quinn would be good casting for this role.

Dinner on Christmas Eve involves duck, lobster, salmon and veal. Christmas Day lunch comprises seven courses

and while, yes, turkey is available you can have beef instead. The beef fillet, cooked by Mr Foster, that I ate here last spring was quite wonderful. Foster is also a supreme soup maker and the menu will include a veg broth.

Boxing Day lunch is centred round roast venison, with devilled oysters before and bread and butter pudding after. Dinner that night is fish soup, a granite lamb roast or beef stewed, Cheddar with homemade walnut bread, caramel ice-cream.

Feathers Hotel Bull Ring, Ludlow, Shropshire (0584 5281)

Black and white buildings abound in the Marches and west Midlands but none is so confidently ostentatious as the Feathers.

The damage is £200 per person for three nights. More if you want a room where someone like Shakespeare or Lou Reed slept. That price is inclusive of VAT, an awful lot of drink, meals, an architectural tour of the fascinating town by the local historian David Lloyd, the sight of the

'When frightful children tug your arm thus interrupting Des O'Connor's fascinating chat with Michael Parkinson - then is the time to bolt'

fireplaces, door surrounds etc. When I ate there a few weeks ago there was a fine duck and apple dish, a well put together and generously priced wine list, and the sort of service that combines friendliness with promptness.

Vannom's 2 Greenman Street, London N1 (01-359 6707)

John Vannom, who owns and cooks at this idiosyncratic basement restaurant in Islington, is fanatical in his contempt for turkeys. In lieu of that bird he'll be cooking a Christmas Day lunch of haunch and saddle of venison,

sucking pig, goose, duck and, if he can get them, swan and wild boar. All the meat will be boned.

The meal will begin with soup and culminate in a Christmas pudding made to an 18th-century recipe. There'll also be sorbets and preserved fruits and mainly English cheeses for £20 per person, which is a bargain for cooking of Vannom's standard.

Middlethorpe Hall, Bishopthorpe Road, York (0904 641)

This is a copybook early eighteenth century house on the outskirts of York. A four-day package from Christmas Eve until the morning of the 28th will cost £300 per person, which covers everything save drink. If you just want Christmas Day lunch you'll pay £25 per head: this meal will comprise leek and watercress soup, smoked salmon salad, champagne sorbet, turkey, Christmas pudding or brandy sauce and orange ice-cream etc.

The considerable talents of Middlethorpe's cook Aidan

McCormack will probably be more apparent in the Boxing Night dinner (£22.50 per head) which will be mussel and saffron soup, fricassee of turbot and salmon, beef with shallots, fruit mousses and cheese from Alan Porter.

There is a range of "activities" - some of them alluring (Weatherby: race, some less so (hand-bell ringing, Babes in the Wood at the newly restored Bradford Alhambra).

The Oak Room: Le Meridien, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 8000)

As well as the usual carte of Michael Lorain's dishes there is a £60 per head eight-course lunch devised by David Chambers. A pâté of goose liver and sweetbreads with brioche; something or other with lobster and scallops; a herb sorbet (good idea, this); lamb wrapped in veal; salad; Sultana with port; pear and chestnut "parfait".

This is the most opulent interior of all London restaurants and is no doubt apt for a celebratory tick-in.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

L'Aquitaine: 158 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 (01-373 9918/5759)

There'll be South American music from a trio. The pre-prandial punch has more to do with south-west France - it is made from anagnone and pousse-rapide. The meal begins with cep soup or oysters. Then ballotine of wood pigeon or scallops with watercress purée; veal with prunes or venison with grand veneur sauce (reduccant, wine, stock, cream); champagne sorbet.

The cooking here is consistently good and this £25 per head meal is by no means greedily priced.

Hilaire: 88 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-584 8893)

Simon Hopkinson's cooking goes from strength to strength. His New Year's Eve menu will cost you £35 and you get a glass of fizz thrown in. There will be six courses: consommé, boudin blanc, a so far undecided fish course, pleasant with morels or venison, file gras, passion fruit bavarois, something chocolate. Hilaire has a marvellous wine list and Mondavi's 1982 Cabernet Sauvignon cannot be too highly recommended.

DRINK

Stock up with good cheer

To guarantee that they can deliver your wine before Christmas, most merchants have a cut-off order date of around December 10. But for

Berry Bros & Rudd it is December 1, even for their Half Bottle Pack of six different wines. Priced at £25.50 it brings you sprightly Sauvignon Sec from Bordeaux, Berry's own pinny Bourgogne Pinot Noir plus a warm only vanilla-scented '78 Ardennes Reserve Elder. From 3 St James's Street, London SW1 (01-839 9033).

The Wine Society (Grosvenor Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts) allows its members until December 12th for Christmas orders. Their "Flavour of the South" case (£21.50) with its virgin olive oil, olives, tarragon and olive paste, quail pâté and three southern French reds should cheer up any Francophile's winter.

Traditionists would perhaps prefer the Claret and Chateau case. Priced at £28, it contains a farmhouse trawler cheddar of about four and a half pounds plus five different bottles of claret.

Lay & Wheeler have the ideal Christmas present: Ronald Searle's wickedly amusing Something in the Cellar (£8.95) plus some wines. The six bottle pack (£29.75) contains the crisp '85 Sauvignon du Haut Poitou plus rich fruity '85 Lay &

Whisper claret. For £59 the 12-bottle pack contains sprightly '85 Chateau du Grand Moulin, Côte de Rhone Villages plus the honeyed '83 Montlouis Demi-Sec. Lay & Wheeler are at 6 Colver Street West, Colchester, Essex.

Adams, the Crown, Southwold, Suffolk have an aptly-named Survival Kit (£21) with Adams own champagne and tawny port plus the delectable old Amontillado from Valdepeñas. (Orders for pre-Christmas delivery before December 10.)

Taylor's Quintas de Vargellas pack box contains the violet-scented '74 Quintas de Vargellas port plus the estate's virgin olive oil, honey, stuffed olives and almonds. Around £42 from Bideford, 113 Regents Park Road, London, NW1, and £48.50 from Buckinghamshire.

Finally, this year's newest and most useful vintage stocking filler comes from the ingenious Screwtop people: the capsule remover (£3.95) zips the capsules off wine bottles in seconds and the spin-handled corkscrew (£8.95) removes corks from bottles equally efficiently.

Jane MacQuitty

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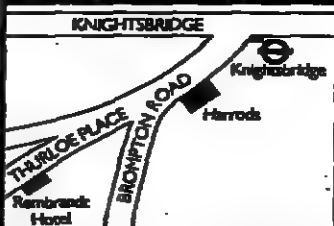
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THE ARTS

Plain speaking

Robert Kilroy-Silk, the extremely moderate former MP, has now completed his first week of office as moderator of *Day to Day* (BBC1). His invited audience has debated abortion, privatization, women at work, spiritualism and, yesterday, capital punishment. Next Monday, he promised, he will be discussing "something else".

The beta-plus he has already earned for the way he combines emotive fairness with well-timed inflammatory must be set against his delinquent for eloquence. There is no reason why a debate should not speak with a Liverpool accent, but Mr Kilroy-Silk's has got stuck somewhere between Lime Street and Euston. "Doris, you gotta lotta answer the question!" he expostulated on Thursday at the clairvoyant battler Doris Stokes.

TELEVISION

Looking as though a Burton's display mannequin had stepped out of its window, stick-mike at the ready, he certainly appears to be liked by his studio guests - even when they are engaged in the bloodiest bouts of soap-boxing.

At an hour of the day when many decent folk have hung over, it is disconcerting to find so many people eager to be teeth-gnashingly adversarial. Yesterday's proposition that hanging should be reintroduced for child-murder got a surprising Aye vote from Ruth Ellis's sister, who was judiciously seated well away from Albert Pierpoint ("I sleep easy at night"), the man who judiciously killed Ellis. A hanging grammar of - one suspects - very little brain embarrassingly failed to explain the acronym of her own organization. This was par for the course: the "debate" was a messy and inconclusive excuse for sounding off in public.

The crime for which Federico Garcia Lorca was executed was that of being a sentient and articulate human being. What a pity that this humanist who never joined a political party should by his death have become a martyr of the Left.

The *Spirit of Lorca* (BBC2) completed Arena's triptych of modern Spanish icons. Forced to be the most resourceful of the three, it turned out the most gorgeous, with the absence of primary television material mitigated by excerpts from *Yerma*, shots of the Andalusian landscape and lashings of *cante jondo*.

Lorca's biographer Ian Gibson showed us the desk at which *Blood Wedding* was written in 15 days straight, with only Bach's *Wachet am Feuertag* for repetitions company, and there were enough magical poems to soothe the viewer's referred anger at his stupid death.

Martin Cropper

● The National Theatre production of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is to transfer to the West End, opening at the Aldwych Theatre on December 3 (with previews from Thursday). Dorothy Tutin and Susan Engel join the cast, as Blanche and Kate respectively. The director is Michael Rudman.

● The 1987 season at the Old Vic opens on January 20 with Lindsay Anderson's production of the American comedy *Holiday*, by Philip Barry. Malcolm McDowell leads the cast, together with his wife Mary Steenburgen.

How the RSC lost its sense of direction

Mark Edge

With its West End transfers, its Queen's Award for Export, and its opening at the Swan Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company began this year on the crest of a wave.

However, from that position there is nowhere to go but down, and I remember experiencing a slight sense of vertigo in the midst of the Swan's festive debut in April. Here was Stratford's long-awaited third stage: the means at last of escaping the Bardic treadmill and doing justice to the whole classical repertoire. It seemed odd that Trevor Nunn was not even in the house to see his dream coming true.

We all know the sequel to that little social omission. And in the months following the task of reviewing has been complicated by having to look at productions through a fog of accusations and rumour. The season is now almost over. It has included some good work but even if the question of "absentee landlordism" had never cropped up, the company's career both in Stratford and London would have given the impression of a driver falling asleep at the wheel.

The one indisputable success has been the sequence of Swan productions which faithfully carried out the theatre's four-category policy without exposing a single dud text. With luck, the company will find a London house for these shows next year, as there is precious little worth transferring from its other Stratford stages which have shown no sign of the new grand design

Attention has been focussed this week on poor houses at the Royal Shakespeare Company's London home, the Barbican Theatre. But it has not been an encouraging season at Stratford either. Irving Wardle asks whether the RSC now lacks leadership

supposedly ushered in by the Swan.

The Other Place, formerly the home of studio Shakespeare and source of such London transfers as *Camille* and *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, has been occupied by family chronicles and anachronistic biographies. The trouble with these (honourably excepting Nick Dear's *The Art of Success*) is that they come over as rambling first drafts which, in their present form, are clearly going nowhere. The main house made a last-minute recovery with last month's *Macbeth*. Significantly, this also marked a return to the bare stage after a design-dominated season. Even Michael Bogdanov's *Romeo and Juliet*, which did have a strong directorial concept, relied heavily on its modern dress setting (added to which, the show was a replica of one previously staged by Bogdanov in Leicester). But with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Richard II*, the meaning of the plays was engulfed in William Dudley's dense Arthur Rackham forest and prospective battlefields. Decoration apart, there was no clear sense of why these plays had been chosen.

As for the company, there has been plenty of good middle-range work and the emergence of two front-rank artists in Hugh Quarshie and Imogen Stubbs. What have been lacking are lead actors with the muscle and temperamental range to carry the great heroic roles.

In London, meanwhile, things were hardly better at the Barbican. Of the two main-stage productions, Adrian Noble's flamboyant version of *Mephisto* proved to have been badly timed, and its Central European companion piece, *The Danton Affair*, was scuppered by poor direction (irrespective of recent memories of the *Wajda* film).

The Pit season, which has now picked up with two searchingly intelligent plays from Richard Nelson and Arthur Miller, opened with dated exercises in American impersonation, one of which was grossly unworthy of professional performance.

The RSC no longer assigns directors to individual theatres, and the repertoire for its four stages is decided in collective discussion with the artistic director. This year,

Trevor Nunn has been off the scene. What of his partner and successor, Terry Hands? None of the above productions was his work. But did he support them all? Did he read the script of Nick Dear's *The Dead Monkey* and enthusiastically authorize Roger Michell to drive ahead into the Californian brick wall? Did he observe *The Danton Affair* stumbling towards its undercast, ill-staged opening? Was he in sympathy with the eccentricities of Stratford design?

Perhaps he did, perhaps he was. But from the spectator's viewpoint it is hard to discern any sign of leadership either in box office strategy or artistic commitment. With the collapse of *Nicholas Nickleby* on Broadway the RSC's chairman, Geoffrey Cass, issued the warning that "there are no reserves with which to meet a crisis". The RSC denies that it is in crisis, although "like all West End theatres we haven't had a great year". (A misleading comparison, given the advance bookings for some West End shows including their own past transfers.) Either way, the company's only guarantee of survival lies in continually renewing its identity through passionate belief in its own work. There is no mistaking that quality when it does appear. It appears in John Caird's production of *Misalliance*. It does not appear in Mr Hands's *Scenes from a Marriage*, which will be withdrawn in January in favour of *The Merry Wives* from Stratford.



Man in the driver's seat: Terry Hands ponders the way ahead

A Carmen of cheap thrills

OPERA

Carmen Coliseum

I suppose it is the lack of taboos that makes eroticism as difficult to realise on the stage as spirituality: what we manage so much more easily is the merely sexy or the religious. And having witnessed David Pountney's new production of *Carmen* I would not look forward to his *Parsifal*.

The programme book is full of phrases clamouring for entry to *Private Eye*'s "Wimmin" column, but as it turns out this is not a feminist *Carmen*. Nor could it be, for the piece is not in essence about the struggle between the sexes but about the struggle between the rational self and Eros. This is its mythic dimension, which might well become more prominent and challenging in a production released from realism. It would be nice to feel that was Mr Pountney's intention.

In ditching Seville, however, he finds no other place in which to situate the opera, and yet he is far from accepting Lucien Fittler's solution for the Welsh National Opera of presenting the work as a theatrical show.

The broken-down, vividly decorated limousines, the wide back boarding of a sleazy seductress and the brilliant fluorescent and Smartie colours of the costumes all combine to make a striking stage picture for the first two acts (the design is by Maria Bjornson), but in movement, grouping and expression the reproduction remains resolutely stage-bound, refusing to inhabit the mental landscape that is waiting for it.

Partly this is a matter of stiffness which may be sorted out during the course of the run: the final tableau, for instance, will have to be much more mistily assembled. But the most serious problems lie deeper, in a representation of



A wrecked car lot outside the ramparts of Seville: John Trevelyan and Sally Burgess

erotic behaviour that aims low and then falls short. What one sees is, I imagine, what can be viewed at less expense and with more honesty in Brewer Street and around, a few strident away from the Coliseum: there are a lot of gyrating hips and bottoms, hands smoothing over legs, lightly clothed bodies tottering on high heels, crotched during a response, women pouring in fake fur and glitter. I dare say these things are not terribly convincing when done by the professionals, but at the Coliseum the effect is much more ludicrous than dangerous.

It also utterly destroys the tension between Carmen and Don José, for we are surely meant to be confronted with someone for whom sexual desire has become uncontrollable, not with a man turned on by rolling eyes and black underwear. John Trevelyan does well in these circumstances to retain so much of the character's decency, and indeed to present the worthwhile Don José I have seen (if

not by any means the best sung). But Sally Burgess is landed - or has landed herself, since Hilary Finch's interview with her in Thursday's paper suggested a joint effort - with an interpretation of Carmen that it would be exceedingly hard to make credible.

Everything in her behaviour, set off by a skimpy black costume in the first two acts, is that of a cheap tart who eventually enjoys her moment of glory when she comes on in silver dress and blonde wig for the fourth act.

Unfortunately there is not much allure either in her singing. The top of the voice is still troubled by a hard glare, and the new low range does not sound well established or integrated yet. But it would be quite unfair to judge anyone on an appearance in this production; though I would doubt that David Arnold, making his ENO debut, is going to provide any surprises after showing such a small usable range as Escamillo.

Another newcomer is Steven Page, of whom I would have much higher hopes: given the smooth, fine sensuality of his appearance here, one looks forward very much to his Don Giovanni later for the company. But it comes to something when a production of *Carmen* is most notable for its Morales. Among the rest, Vivian Tierney became a vocally bright and lively Frasquita when she had overcome some initial nervousness. The Micela was disappointing: the casting of the smugglers as a comic double act is a lesser misfortune.

Mark Elder conducts with great vim and vibrancy, though the more intimate passages, like that after Escamillo's exit in the third act, need attention. There is also an exuberant and raucous children's chorus who at least supply with authenticity the Cockney accents sported in this leaden balloon.

Paul Griffiths

Agnes von Hohenstaufen Teatro dell'Opera, Rome

Gaspere Spontini was by all accounts a pompous man with little warmth and no sense of proportion. These qualities are clearly reflected in his last opera, *Agnes von Hohenstaufen*, which in Italian translation opened the season in Rome. Composed in its final form for Berlin in 1837, *Agnes* was described by its creator as a "grosse historisch-romantische Oper". Ernst Raupach's libretto later weaves the historical schism between the Emperor Henry VI and Henry the Lion in the late 12th century with the plight of a pair of star-crossed lovers, and the result makes *Il Trovatore* seem a model of expository clarity.

In musical and dramatic style *Agnes* is the ultimate extension of the serious operas Spontini wrote for Paris, which were the greatest successes of his career: it is massively orchestrated, contains few solo numbers, makes extensive use of a large chorus, and demands elaborate scenic effects on a grand scale.

It could be performed rather more convincingly than it was in Rome. The choral contribution is essential to the effectiveness of the big ensembles, but the Rome chorus alternated between inadequacy and ineffectuality. Antonio Calenda's staging of the work made it seem more static than it actually is: even when violent action was called for the characters retained their stilted poses. Montserrat Caballé cut an incredible figure in the title-role, and her singing rarely displayed the purity of line that used to be its hallmark; she produced sweet pianissimo and solid fortissimo but not much in between. Veriano Luchetti sang powerfully and with martial ardour as Agnes's lover Enrico.

The young Chilean conductor Maximiliano Valdes had difficulty in keeping his disparate forces firmly under control. A curious revival.

Nigel Jamieson

Spiritual Mozart

CONCERTS

EBS/Gardiner Barbican

If one could summon Mozart to finish a single incomplete work, I would pick not the *Requiem* but the C Minor Mass, K427: a masterly torso with a dramatic range and musical audacity that surpasses even the swansong.

The next best thing must be to hear the unfinished work performed with such a sure grasp of its possibilities that it seems entirely satisfactory as it stands. This was such a performance.

In the past John Eliot Gardiner and his Monteverdi Choir have occasionally sounded more intent on interpreting the letter, rather than the spirit, of the sacred choral repertoire. Here, though, brilliant choral technique seemed perfectly allied to deeply-felt emotion.

This was clear from the "Kyrie", where Gardiner emphasized the C-minor hardness of the writing: the choristers' chest voices matching the nasal timbres of the English Baroque Soloists' "authentic" oboes and trombones. Thus he maximized the contrast with the radiant "Christe", sung with unfurled purity by the American soprano Sylvia McNair.

Similarly, he accentuated the shock of being thrust into

the *sturm und drang* diminished chords of the "Gratias" straight after the skipping coloratura of the "Laudamus te" (which found Diana Montague in expensive voice). And in the "Qui tollis" something hugely melodramatic was made of Mozart's unexpected piano marking at "Miserere".

Perhaps he should have been equally bold in the galloping "Credo" and the final "Benedictus", both of which sounded over-refined: too much super-ego, not enough id. But he did provide shapely accompaniments for the delightful "Domine Deus", where the two sopranos exchange notes an octave and a half apart, and the "Et incarnatus", with its celebrated cadenza for soprano and woodwind.

I have heard conductors give little history lessons before performing a symphony (several times, unfortunately), but never, before tonight, during one.

Gardiner completed two movements of Mozart's No 31 (the "Paris"), then announced that he was also going to perform the alternative second movement - the one Mozart substituted when the Parisian impresario Le Gros said the French equivalent of "too many notes, my dear Mozart" about the original. The verbal interjection was a pleasant quirk, and possibly even livelier than the performance.

Richard Morrison

Definitive Dorati

RPO/Dorati Festival Hall

Reservations have recently been voiced on this page about the performance of Antal Dorati and, in particular, Jorge Bolet. On Thursday night, they wiped their slates clean. It was one of those evenings when chemistry between conductor, soloist and

orchestra was at its most productive; and when the programming itself seemed to bring to the fore some of the most positive and distinctive aspects of their performing character.

It was midsummer Brahms: the Second Piano Concerto and the Second Symphony, both written on holiday retreat in the Austrian countryside. It was clearly Dorati's intention to minimize conflict at every point in the concerto's opening movement. The strings, obviously well-rehearsed, purred in ascent to Dorati's cultivated phrasing, preparing a context for Bolet's deliciously figurative and light, fluid rubato. He, in turn, was later to provide a long, expectant approach of sustained pianissimo for the solo cello's beautifully poised return in the Andante.

Bolet's particular skill at filtering melody into its harmonic support - something which so distinguishes his Liszt playing - made its mark on the second, gentler theme of the Scherzo. It ventilated the properly oppressive three beats - Bolet's playing made us feel the tugging undertow of each one - and, with Dorati's meticulous balance of parts, freed the movement to rise into the major without a hint of the bombastic.

This sense of deliberate weight reduction, of a refusal of anything approaching rhetoric, was a refreshing characteristic of the evening as a whole. Dorati had slimmed the contours of the Academic Festival Overture, drawing some unusually refined climaxes from the brass; and had brought an almost Schubertian suppleness of structure and texture to a spacious, leisureed performance of the Second Symphony.

Irving Wardle

Hilary Finch

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Power of a play possessed

Donald Cooper

THEATRE

A Mouthful of Birds Royal Court

The notion of being "possessed" may sound like a discarded superstition, but everyone has experienced it and used phrases like "I wasn't myself". This Joint Stock Theatre production (first reviewed in Birmingham by Andrew Ross) takes the idea very seriously indeed.

The text is a collaboration between two playwrights: David Lan, a professional anthropologist, and Caryl Churchill, whose past work has focussed on witchcraft and criminology. They have pooled these resources to examine what happens when ordinary lives are invaded by some other internal, or external, force. The piece consists of seven such "possessions" linked by reference to the ultimate model of Euripides's *The Bacchae*. Reduced to anecdote, it shows such episodes as a woman drowning her child, a businessman falling in love with a pig, and two noisy neighbours going for each other with knives.



Dionysus double: Philippe Girard and Stephen Goff in *A Mouthful of Birds*

But what counts is not the basic events, but the means by which the production (Lan Spink and Les Waters) takes you inside the heads of the afflicted characters, either in nightmare or ecstasy, making you feel how easily you could act as they do.

Dance figures prominently in the show. When the victims dance it is a jerky, autistic ballet of impotence. Only when the two figures of Dionysus (Philippe Girard and Stephen Goff) take the stage does it expand into the flowing line of those at

peace with their own bodies. As for the individual episodes, the production displays an amazing variety of devices that lead you into forbidden places of the mind. The child killer, for instance, is assailed by a seductive tempter who breaks into the regular quarrel with her husband over the kitchen table. The pig-lover engages in a rap *pas de deux* with a like, graceful partner defined only with strap-on ears. And the Euripidean finale shows the devouring of Pentheus as a giggling girl's party only falling silent when

they see the heap of tattered rags at their feet.

With chameleon performances from Tricia Kelly and Vivienne Rochester, the production is a most accomplished collage which succeeds in discovering extraordinary varieties of tone and rhythm within the limits of uncontrolled passion. My only doubt is this suggestion that "possession" is in some way therapeutic and capable of changing people's lives. Euripides would disagree.

Irving Wardle

REVIEW

Swinging blues with a Sting in the tale

JAZZ RECORDS

Brandford Marsalis Royal Caribbean (CBS 450151-1) Jerry Brunsell The Cantor's Crucible (Tuba 4)

A couple of weeks ago, Brandford Marsalis strode on to the stage at Ronnie Scott's Club in the middle of a heated set by the jazz Messengers, borrowed from the Messengers, borrowed from the Messengers, borrowed from the Messengers...



Brandford Marsalis: pure magic

Brandford and his brothers, of course, are noted for their rejection of the wilful outlandishness of much of the jazz of the last two decades. Not the least remarkable aspect of The Cantor's Crucible, a 40-minute cycle in which Jerry Brunsell traces the path of a Jewish cantor from ghetto to Nazi death camp, is that it finds a concrete application for some of the iconoclastic techniques pioneered by the post-Coltrane boys.

Performed entirely by the composer on an array of instruments (principally clarinet, trumpet, alto saxophone, piano and percussion) and extending the appropriate emotional intensity, the work moves cunningly between idioms, the spirit of Kurt Weill never far away. Other uncomfortable and sometimes genuinely harrowing, it is at its most appealing when creating the effect of a bunch of street musicians down on their luck and struggling to hold a tune together on a freezing winter's night somewhere in central Europe 50 years ago.

The audacious ending, in which instruments and voice give way to the rumble of thunder and the relentless hiss of rain on the mud of some 20th-century Golgotha, is not easily forgotten.

Richard Williams

Rocking-chair trip

ROCK RECORDS

Eric Clapton August (Duck W071925 476-1) The Tail Gaters Mumbo Jumbo (Zippo ZONG 010)

Even a glance at the song titles on August betrays the poverty of imagination which has been Eric Clapton's since the twilight of his career, how can anyone call a new song "Miss You" or "Walk Away" or "Hold On", a title already bestowed on six songs to my certain knowledge?

The malaise is confirmed by the music, a hotch-potch of pensionable-aged rock steered unwaveringly down the middle lane by the ubiquitous Phil Collins (drums, production, and one songwriting credit). Tina Turner duets with Clapton on a monotonous, frug, "Tearing Us Apart", the Brecker Brothers somehow appear on five tracks without making any impact, and even a great song like Robert Cray's "Red Influence", is despoiled by an unbecoming disco shuffle arrangement.

The best songs, "Miss You" and "It's in the Way that You Use It", show glimmers of Clapton's former sense of style and attack. But August suffers not so much from a lack of effort as from an absence of

the relevant musical and lyrical vocabulary needed to shed a rock star's sense in 1986. Ironically, the Tail Gaters' guitarist and vocalist Don Leady is better able to capture the flavour of the times using the kind of strappy guitar sound and gritty techniques that Clapton was employing when he recorded *Five Live Yardbirds* in 1964. But Mumbo Jumbo, the third album by the trio from Austin, Texas, is not in any sense a revivalist record. Leady, a founder member of the Lefto Brothers, together with bassist Keith Ferguson (the Fabulous Thunderbirds) and Gary Smith (Stevie Ray Vaughan's band) has plundered the rich Southern traditions of Cajun and Zydeco to come up with a fresh permutation that may best be called modern swamp rock.

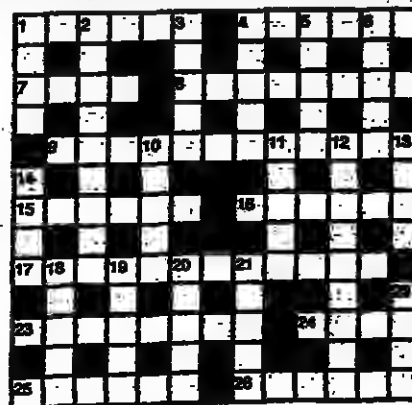
The smart chord changes in "Behind the Wheel", the trilling guitar solo in "Yard Dog", and the honkey instrumental hooks in "Little Girl Blue" confirm the spontaneous appeal of an album that marries musical accomplishment to some near-garage band recording techniques, and manages to breathe new life into the somewhat sagging spirit of contemporary rock 'n' roll.

David Sinclair

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1119

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 4, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solutions will be announced on Saturday, December 6, 1986.

- ACROSS
- First class (6)
 - Torment (6)
 - Steady state (4)
 - Unconquered (8)
 - Alkaloid extract (12)
 - Hindu retreat (6)
 - Certainly (6)
 - Very busy (9)
 - Goats (5)
 - Nigerian people (5)
 - Prepared (5)
 - Heating element (5)
 - Prize (5)
 - Plan (5)
 - Conjuncture (9)
 - Homebased journey (4)
 - Prison (4)
 - Ten to four (5)
 - Prize (5)
 - Laurel (5)
 - Devotee area (5)
 - Knee bending ballet posture (4)



- DOWN
- Spook (4)
 - Very busy (9)
 - Goats (5)
 - Nigerian people (5)
 - Prepared (5)
 - Heating element (5)
 - Prize (5)
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 - Homebased journey (4)
 - Prison (4)
 - Ten to four (5)
 - Prize (5)
 - Laurel (5)
 - Devotee area (5)
 - Knee bending ballet posture (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1118

ACROSS: 1 Puddle 4 Pillow 7 Chain 8. 15 Least 16 Breeze 20. 21 Noodle. 22 Woodwork 23 Cup. 24 Down: 1 Puddle 2 Bird 3 Enam 4 Post 5 Looking 6 Whisk 10 Mule 11. 12 Bute 13 Turn off 14 Enzyme 15 Lower 17. 18 Roman 19 Tapes 20 Foot.

The winners of prize concise No 1118 are: J. V. Rowcliffe, Lane Cottage, Broad Campden, Gloucestershire and Mrs M. Manning, Sunnyside, Wimbeldon, south London.

SOLUTION TO NO 1119 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Sucker 4 Astute 7 Card 8 Upheaval 9 Solace. 10 15 Dharma 16 Upward 17 Looking glass 23 Thistle 24. 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 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THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE

HAT TRICK: Clive Dunn plays the dithering uncle of bridegroom Tom Conti in the classic French farce, *An Italian Straw Hat*. Stratford Johns, Clare Higgins and Deborah Norton also star in an adaptation by Simon Moore of Eugene Labiche's story of frantic efforts to replace a lady's straw hat, which has been chewed up by a horse on the way to the wedding. The Theatre of Comedy production is directed by Anton Rodgers. Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5399), previews from Friday, first night December 15.



TELEVISION

IN THE DOCK: Anna Ford takes the chair for TV on *Trial*, the final programme in BBC Television's 50th anniversary celebrations. Conducted by the lawyer, Paul Sieghart, the two-hour-plus "trial" will cover three areas of concern - TV and violence, TV and the home and TV and values. Witnesses include Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC Television, Michael Buerk, Russell Harty and actors Tom Watt and Glynis Barber. A jury of 500 viewers will use an electronic vote to give their verdict. BBC2, tomorrow, 8.05-10.20pm.



CONCERTS

RUSSIAN SALAD: Semyon Bychkov, the young Leningrad-born conductor who made his British debut in March last year, takes the baton for two concerts with the London Philharmonic. Today's programme includes the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, with Dmitry Sitkovetsky as soloist, and the Shostakovich Symphony No 5. On Thursday Radu Lupu plays the Mozart Piano Concerto K595 and the other main work is Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191), both 7.30pm.



GALLERIES

TOP DRAWER: Edward Ardizzone started work as a clerk in the city, drawing secretly when the boss was not looking. He caused his family consternation when he resigned to become a full-time artist. But he was soon designing book jackets and evolving a delicate style of drawing that became famous. An exhibition featuring old favourites, from Little Tim to Lucy Brown and Mr Grimes, as well as works by his family and friends is at Sally Hunter and Patrick Seale Fine Art, London SW1 (01-235 0934), from Tuesday.



DANCE

BEAUTY TREATMENT: Anthony Dowell has his first created part since becoming artistic director of the Royal Ballet in *Beauty and the Beast*. This new work has music by Vangelis and choreography by Wayne Eagling; design is by Jan Pienkowski, best known as an illustrator of children's books. Dowell's new job has obliged him to give up the big classical leads but he is keen to continue working alongside his dancers in the studio and on stage. Covent Garden (01-240 4066), Tuesday.



ROCK

SONGSMITHS: Eurythmics duo Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart can look back with satisfaction on a 10-year songwriting partnership. Battered by the collapse of The Tourists, they reappeared in 1981, making DIY albums on 8-track machines, and laying the unlikely foundations for their transition to world-ranked stadium rock band. This is their first British tour for three years. Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow (041 248 3000), tonight; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

FILMS OPENINGS

LABYRINTH (U): Fairy-tale saga from Muppet man Jim Henson, with Jennifer Connolly as the teenager out to rescue her baby sister from the clutches of David Bowie's Goblin King. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), From Tues.

EAT THE PEACH (PG): Engaging and polished comedy from Ireland, based on the bizarre true story of a man obsessed with building a Wall of Death; a huge local hit and a major prize-winner at the Taormina Film Festival. Plaza (01-437 1294), From Fri.

KANGAROO (PG): D. H. Lawrence's Australian novel, prettily but ponderously filmed by Tim Burstall, with Colin Friels as the author's surrogate - a writer wooed by fascists. With Judy Davis (excellent) as his German wife. Cannon Haymarket (01-930 1527), From Fri.

SELECTED

ROUND MIDNIGHT (U): Bernard Taverer's loving homage to jazz musicians, set in Paris during the 1950s; with Dexter Gordon as a saxophonist befriended by an idolizing Frenchman. Lumiere (01-936 0691), Screen on the Hill (01-436 3300), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220).

SHOAH (PG): Claude Lanzmann's meticulous and chilling Holocaust documentary, more than nine hours long, presented in two parts. Curzon Mayfair (01-498 3737).

ROCK

LEVEL 42: A lot of fast twiddly bass-playing, but no new material. Tomorrow-Wed, Wembley Arena (01-902 1234); Fri, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).

CHRIS REA: If Chris de Burgh can become an overnight sensation there may be hope for Rea yet. Tomorrow, Pavilion, Glasgow (041 332 1846); Mon, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590); Wed, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606); Fri, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775).

STATUS QUO: Join the professionals on their winter manoeuvres. Mon, Brighton Centre (0273 202881); Tues-Thurs, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

BARRENE WHITFIELD AND THE SAVAGES: Good time raucous rock 'n' roll of the kind favoured by Andy Kershaw. Wed, Dingwalls, London NW1 (01-267 4367); Thurs, Astoria, Leeds (0532 490362).

MOODY BLUES: Still peddling their mystic philosophies on the meaning of life, and still placing albums in the US top ten. Thurs, St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371233); Fri, Wembley Arena (01-902 1234).

THEATRE OPENINGS

SPRING AWAKENING: Inner Circle Company in Tom Osborn's translation of the Frank Wedekind study of sexual repression in late 19th-century Germany, directed by Margaret Gordon. Young Vic Studio (01-928 8563), Preview Wed, First night Thurs.

WHEN I WAS A GIRL, I USED TO SCREAM AND SHOUT: Sherman Macdonald's comedy, about a girl growing up in 1950s Scotland, won her a London Standard award for Most Promising Playwright. Simon Stokes directs Julie Walters, Geraldine James, John Gordon Sinclair. Whitehall (01-930 7765), Previews from Mon, First night Dec 9.

SELECTED

WOMAN IN MIND: Powerful, poignant Ayckbourn drama with award-winning performance from Julia McKenzie as distraught wife. Vaudeville (01-836 9587).

THE INFERNAL MACHINE: Last week of Simon Callow's adaptation of Cocteau's version of Oedipus; odd but intriguing.

FILMS ON TV

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM: Revival of Sondheim's tuneful romp through ancient Rome; Frankie Howard once again the roughish guide. Piccadilly (01-437 4506).

MACBETH: Jonathan Pryce a ferocious regicide in Adrian Noble's intense production. Stratford (0789 29562).

BREAKING THE CODE: Intelligent stage biography of the enigmatic Alan Turing, computer genius and homosexual; fine performance by Derek Jacobi. Haymarket (01-930 9832).

FILMS ON TV

Eddie Constantine as the private eye Lemmy Caution in *Alphaville* (BBC2, 11.35pm-1.20am). Jean-Luc Godard's excursion into science-fiction which remains one of his more accessible films. An alternative title was *Tarzan versus IBM*, which neatly summarizes Godard's blend of pulp fiction heroics and a bleak vision of a society controlled by computer. It is being shown with his latest, more pretentious, film, *Detective* (9.55-11.35pm).

KES (1989): Barry Hines's story of a boy and his kestrel, filmed with freshness and sympathy by Ken Loach. BBC2, tomorrow, 3-4.50pm.

HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO (1944): Roistering, sardonic Preston Sturges comedy about an army reject (Eddie Bracken) fêted in his home town as a war hero. Channel 4, tomorrow, 9.45-11.35pm.

A STAR IS BORN (1937): Janet Gaynor, Fredric March in the first and best version of the much-filmed tale of a rising actress and a falling star. BBC1, Tues, 2-3.50pm.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY (1966): Clint Eastwood leads Sergio Leone's stylish, violent story of bounty hunters in the American Civil War which set a new trend in Westerns. BBC1, Fri, 9.30pm-midnight.

JAZZ

RAY BROWN TRIO: Gene Harris, a pianist who plays the blues like he invented them, is the revelation of band led by one of the great bassists of jazz. Tonight, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

KENNY DAVERN: Fluent and lyrical mainstream clarinetist. Tonight, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 8722).

COURTNEY PINE: Behind the hype, Pine is a genuinely talented musician with a lot of growing to do. Tonight, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 505401); Thurs, Portsmouth Polytechnic (0706 919141).

NAPPY BROWN: A welcome comeback by the Fifties rhythm 'n' blues veteran whose gospel-derived composition "Night Time is the Right Time" provided Ray Charles with an early hit. Tomorrow, Powerhouse, Birmingham (021 643 4715); Tues, Cricketers, Kennington Oval, London SE11 (01-735 3059); Wed, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (01-638 0933); Thurs, Gossips, 69 Dean Street, London W1 (01-434 4480); Fri, Laskers Hotel, Redhill (0737 81043).

JOHNNY DYANI MEMORIAL: Chris McGregor, Louis Moholo and Dudu Pukwana pay tribute to the recently deceased Dyani, who played bass with them in the band that brought these remarkable South African musicians to Europe more than 20 years ago. Tues, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (01-638 0933).

CONCERTS

ABBADO/ASHKENAZY: Claudio Abbado conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 6 "Pathétique". Vladimir Ashkenazy solos in Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-638 8891), Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ALL BRAHMS: The Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Bernard Haitink in Brahms's Serenade No 1 and Symphony No 4. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8900), Mon, 7.30pm.

HELP POLAND: In aid of the Help Poland Fund and in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra, Alan Kogosowski plays nocturnes, études, ballades and the F minor Fantasy by Chopin. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), Tues, 7.30pm.

MASUR/RO: Beethoven's *Prometheus Overture* and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* are heard from the RPO under Kurt Masur and Kyung Wha Chung solos in Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

ALL BEETHOVEN: As James Loughran conducts the LSO, John Lill solos in Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos 1-3. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

PRITCHARD/BBC SO: As a contribution to Radio 3's current Russian season, Sir John Pritchard conducts the BBC SO in Shostakovich's Symphony No 11 "The Year 1905" and Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 2 (soloist, Dmitri Alexeev). Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

FROM COPENHAGEN: Lamberto Gardelli conducts the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Brahms's Symphony No 1, and John Ogdon solos in Grieg's Piano Concerto. Barbican Centre, Wed, 7.45pm.



Four faces of Lear: Paul Scofield (left), Laurence Olivier (top), Donald Sinden (centre) and Michael Hordern (right)

Kings of the theatrical tragedy

That tragedy of retribution, *King Lear*, used to be seen in the theatre as a battle of man against man. Inhibitions have long vanished. During the last six decades our major classical players (Gielgud on four occasions) have taken the Promethean challenge for good or ill. Anthony Hopkins, soon to be seen at the National in the tragedy's first arrival there, now follows a group of Lear on various stages within, roughly, 16 or 17 years. Roughly, because the famous performance outside that limit was Paul Scofield's in Stratford and London (1962). The production is remembered not only for its actor - who could resemble an ancient sea captain commanding the bridge of his vessel and defying the cosmic forces as it drove, unmanned, towards doom - but also for a contentious treatment by Peter Brook. He saw the play as Brechtian, or as Beckettian in the *Endgame* mood, a narrative without pity or sympathy. Directors have usually regarded Lear as a dawn-in-Britain, Stonehenge trag-

edy, though the actor-scholar Robert Spraight insisted that it was Jacobean in the sense that it mirrored a period and the thought of a period. The Stratford production of 1976 began surprisingly when the old King (Donald Sinden) in polished top-boots, was a late 19th-century ruler, disposing of his realm in a quiet inner-court ceremony but talking still of the sacred radiance of the sun and the mysteries of Hecate and the night. Generally, Lear's Britain has been pictorially out of time, as in Brook's primeval statement, or when Anthony Quayle appeared for Prospect (Old Vic, 1978) on a stage simply straw-littered. It is the performance that matters. Probably a mosaic-Lear might be assembled from the playing of actors from the fairly immediate past; see Michael Hordern's testily wilful patriarch of the first act (Old Vic, 1970); Donald Sinden (Stratford, 1976) as he acutely imagined the battered mind, "Keep me in temper; I would not be mad"; the sustained thrust of Michael Gambon (Stratford, 1982) during the trial in the novel, what has been called "the terrible contrapuntal effect between delusion and reality". Anthony Quayle's colloquy with blinded Gloucester; and, in the lament over dead Cordelia, "she's gone far ever" the ultimate extraordinary pathos of Robert Eddon (Actors' Company, and in New York, 1973-1974). Laurence Olivier played Lear in 1946 and in a television film version nearly 40 years later. From the latter we recall a progressive emotional impact, overwhelming but utterly unforced. Even if we think less now of the apparatus of the plot, it remains a shock to read Nahum Tate's version (1681) when Cordelia lives to share the throne with Edgar. Lear goes into retirement, and in a phrase of exquisite banality, "old Kent throws in his hearty wishes too." Certainly any new Lear must have our hearty wishes, if sincerely in the same context. J. C. Trewin

King Lear is at the Olivier Theatre (01-928 2252). Previews from Wed, first night December 11.

TELEVISION

THE KHANS OF PAKISTAN: A timely look at the extraordinary family from a tiny mud village on the north-west frontier which has dominated world squash for 35 years. Channel 4, today, 7.30-8.30pm.

THE WORLD AT WAR: Reprise of Jeremy Isaacs's 26-part history of the Second World War, first shown in 1973 and a television classic. Channel 4, tomorrow, 7.15-8.15pm.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Mozart and Janáček dominate the week: tonight and Fri at 7pm is *Die Zauberflöte* in a revival of August Everding's production. Peter Schneider conducts a cast led by Siegfried Jerusalem as Tamino and Karita Mattila the Pamina. Bernard Haitink has made an auspicious start as music director-designate with an exciting production of *Jenůfa*, directed by Yuri Lyubimov. Wed and Dec 6 at 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The new Pountney production of *Carmen* with Sally Burgess in the title role takes to the stage at 7pm tonight, Tues and Fri, conducted by Mark Elder; there is one last performance of Britten's chamber opera, *The Rape of Lucretia*, on Thurs at 7.30pm and Ian Judge's *Cav and Pag* plays on with performances on Wed and Dec 6 at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-838 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Continuing their visit to Bristol with the rest of *The Ring* tonight at 5pm, *Siegfried* on Tues, also at 5pm, and *Götterdämmerung* on Dec 6 at 4pm. A further performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor* on Wed (7.15pm), and one more of *The Magic Flute*, with its lively young cast, on Thurs (7.15pm). Hippodrome, Bristol (0222 299444).

OPERA INTEGRAL: Gluck aficionados should seize the opportunity to see a comparatively rare staging of *Iphigénie en Tauride* on Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm. Brian Galloway conducts the Opera Integra production by Michael Hunt. Polish Theatre, 238-246 King Street, London W6 (01-741 3686).

BLOOD RED ROSES: John McGrath's epic drama of the personal and political struggles of a doctored Scotsman, memorably portrayed by Elizabeth MacLennan. Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30-10.30pm.

RODIN: Major show exploring the close relationship between the old master Auguste Rodin's drawings and his sculpture. Hayward Gallery, London SE1 (01-928 3144).

MEDIEVAL TREASURY: Brand new display space for the museum's top-class medieval collection. Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7 (01-589 6371).

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 1845-1890: Fascinating exhibition, with some surprising images thrown up from what might seem a dull subject. Photographers' Gallery, Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-831 1772).

ANGUS McBEAN: Five decades of work from this theatrical photographer: humour and interest maintained throughout the years, with just a dash of surrealism. End Gallery, 186 Drury Lane, London W1 (01-831 0196).

RADIO

JEPPE OF THE HILL: A week of drama from Scotland begins with a comedy by the 18th-century Danish dramatist, Ludvig Holberg, about a peasant farmer who is suddenly transported into a world of elegance. Radio 4, today, 7-8.30pm.

A WORD IN EDGEMOOR: The eighth chat show celebrates its 21st birthday with Brian Redhead and guests on whether we are enslaved, or nourished, by the past. Radio 4, tomorrow, 8.30-9pm.

SIX FIGURES AT THE BASE OF A CRUCIFIXION: A Good Friday discussion on guilt and shame by award-winning dramatist Martin Crimp. Bernard Hapton plays one of the six, gathered on the promenade of a south coast resort as a young man dies. Radio 3, Tues, 7.30-8.30pm.

GALLERIES OPENINGS

JOHN BELLANY: Selection of paintings by the Scottish contemporary artist, from the exhibition shown in Edinburgh earlier this year. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-402 6075). From today.

THE ELEMENTS: New sculptural pieces by five artists, including Susan Hiller and Richard Wilson, specially commissioned by the Arts Council to reflect responses to the four elements. Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, 655 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes (0908 605536). From today.

ART CLUB: Third show this year for the Englishman's answer to the Impressionists: the New English Art Club set up by Wilson Steer, Sickert and friends 100 years ago. Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 6845). From Fri.

THE PRINT SHOW: Christmas exhibition featuring gallery artists both famous and unknown, including Abrahams and Rothwell. Angela Flowers Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (01-637 3099). From Thurs.

THRACIAN TREASURE: Discovered last year in true treasure-trove tradition by a tractor-driver digging a trench, it is the biggest hoard of Thracian treasure ever found. From now until March 1 is on loan from Bulgaria. British Museum, Bloomsbury, London WC1 (01-638 1555). From Thurs.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

OPERA NORTH: Booking for winter season, with new production of *La bohème* by David Freeman, Andrei Serban production of *Norma*, and Stravinsky double bill. Also revival of *The Barber of Seville*. Dec 18-Jan 24. Grand Theatre, 45 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 439999).

ALDEBURGH MOOT HALL WEEKEND: Concerts and other events in aid of 16th-century Moot Hall, with song recital by Janet Baker and Roger Vignoles; variety show; children's concert featuring first musical performance of Orlando's *Seaside Holiday*; and Odeon Ellis and Gabriell String Quartet at Snape Maltings. Jan 2-4. Aldeburgh Foundation, High Street, Aldeburgh (072 885 3543).

FROM RUSSIA WITH LUNCH: Booking opens this week for season of lunchtime concerts featuring Russian music and refreshments, Tuesdays at 1.10pm. Jan 13-March 3. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

LAST CHANCE

SOL LE WITT: Work of minimal artist from Connecticut, 1970-86. Ends tomorrow. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313).

THE NORTHERN LANDSCAPE: Dutch 17th-century masters and British artists. Ends tomorrow. Courtauld Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1 (01-580 1015).

PRE-RAPHAELITE PHOTOGRAPHY: Rossetti, Henry Read Robinson, and Julia Margaret Cameron. Ends tomorrow. Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester (061 236 9422).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Films: David Sinclair; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Jeremy Kingston; Television, radio and films on TV: Peter Waymark; Jazz: Richard Williams; Concerts: Max Harrison; Dance: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

SPORTS DIARY

As good as a wink

After our battering in international sport in recent years, it is a joy to report that a Brit has captured a world title for only the second time in his sport, and beating an American to boot. Jon Mapley, of Witham, Essex, overwhelmed Larry Kahn 25.5-16.5 at Churchill College, Cambridge, to become world tiddlywinks singles champion. Mapley began "winking" 25 years ago when he was 14; according to the official report of the match, he won in tremendous style, among other things "quickly recapturing his only squopped wink to go for a pot-out". The title will stay in Britain for the foreseeable future since Mapley's next challenge will come from Alan Dean, the only previous British world champion and winner of the national singles championship in Southampton last weekend.

Squash squeeze

Monday morning is likely to be infuriatingly expensive for Dunlop Sports and its squash promotion budget. After months of leisurely negotiation with Ross Norman to switch to Dunlop's new MAX 500 GS graphite racket, the New Zealander unexpectedly wrested the long-held world championship from Jahangir Khan, and his signature on the contract could now be worth five times as much as when he was world No. 2.

After the Frances Edmonds team about the Hong Kong rugby player Rick Shaw, the Park House club of Hayes, Kent, tells of a member named Mark Card.

Starstudded

Lots 1,235-1,254 at Tattersalls' Newmarket sale on Tuesday will mark the end of an era in British bloodstock. The 15 mares and five fillies out of training are being sold by 92-year-old Jim Joel to wind up operations at his Chidwick Bury stud near St Albans, which he took over from his father in 1940. Founded 99 years ago, the stud's roll call of honour includes Derby winners Sunstar, Humourist and Royal Palace. Tuesday's sale includes its latest classic winner, Fairy Footsteps (1,000 Guineas, 1981), who is in foal to Derby winner Tezozoa. For her the bidding is likely to be conducted in telephone numbers. The sale will not sever Joel's lifelong link with the Turf, he will continue racing horses under both codes.

Beat that

Metropolitan Police believe they have set a record for soccer's quickest substitution. In a Vauxhall-Opel League match against Carberley Town, Ian Stilwell, their goalkeeper, failed to arrive the necessary 30 minutes before kick-off to sign the referee's sheet. Andy Taylor replaced Stilwell, who was named as substitute but arrived just before the kick-off. He was brought on when the ball went out of play after only 2.8 seconds.

BARRY FANTONI



"Mine's an industrial accident. I'm a smucker official!"

All the angles

Football commentators will be hoping today that Kidderminster Harriers and their opponents' involvement in the Welsh Cup. They are third round hosts to Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllysantysiliogogoch. Ray Mercer, the Kidderminster secretary, who reports the club's matches on local radio, says: "I shall refer to them as the team from Anglesey."

However distressing the Manton affair, Robert Sangster is cheered by the prospect of becoming a father for the fifth time. Racing wags are now referring to his Isle of Man home, The Nursery, as The Nursery.

Slipping in

Although no true cricket buff would be without his latest *Wisden*, any who can't wait until April can take solace in the pre-Christmas appearance of two books which together provide comprehensive coverage of the past year. *Benson and Hedges Cricket Year*, now established in its fifth edition, offers — amid the customary superb photographs — reports, summaries and statistics of the game at home and overseas, while the second *County Championship Review*, sponsored by Britannic Assurance and published by *The Cricketer*, gives detailed match-by-match reporting of the senior domestic competition as well as some highly readable articles.

The government's attempts to prevent the publication of Peter Wright's memoirs have provided embarrassments aplenty in the past week. But the drama now being played out in the New South Wales Supreme Court has also again focused attention on Britain's secrecy laws and their effects on the conduct of public life.

On a strict interpretation of the Official Secrets Act, government in Britain is carried on by a process of leaks. The system depends on everyone knowing and respecting how much they are allowed to leak. Roughly speaking, the Prime Minister can leak anything. Ministers can leak secret material and senior officials can leak confidential material. Much experience and sophistication are required to know how to leak constructively, i.e. in order to help and not hinder government.

The whole process is easier for the aspiring civil servant than it sounds, because in practice material graded secret and above constitutes only a small part of the information on which government depends. On defence matters the proportion is higher, and in a few sensitive areas very high. But even in foreign affairs, dependence on secret material is low, probably less than 10 per cent.

Those ministers who receive it tend to enjoy having information from secret sources. It is often more colourful, personal and theatrical than information from normal sources, whether open or confidential. It bypasses the civil service hierarchy and provides a sort of second opinion. It gives the high-ranking reader a feeling of insight and flatters his or her powers of assessment.

Assessment is the crucial issue. As a rule it is risky to jump to conclusions about any piece of raw intelligence. The assessment process, bringing wider knowledge to bear, should always be allowed to intervene. There are no doubt occasional exceptions, but they are very rare and almost entirely in the field of military operations.

It is very difficult to find a satisfactory way of carrying out

Sir Reginald Hibbert argues that the intelligence services need greater scrutiny from ministers — not from Parliament

Built-in wrongs behind the Wright affair

assessments, steering a midway course between arbitrary individual brilliance and uninspired committee work. The crucial question is, who should do it. Should the "open" government departments have the main say (e.g. the Foreign Office in foreign affairs) or the "secret" purveyors of secret information, or should a quasi-independent staff of selected talents be assembled to do the job?

The method varies from country to country and is never ideal. In the UK the compromise adopted is a mixed staff in the Cabinet Office drawn from the various interested departments and agencies. The Cabinet Office, like ministers, tends to be strengthened by its link with the secret sources of information, which in turn gives these sources of information more influence on the assessment process and on central, high-level opinion-forming than perhaps, in pure theory, they ought to have.

The secret and security services of the Atlantic powers have grown large and powerful in two world wars and the cold war. This is because of the larger weight which secret information has in matters of national defence.

The services in question have developed into full-blown bureaucracies. Their members have be-

come professionals with a belief in their own and their work's importance. Nevertheless, the historical convention is that they do not exist and can be neither seen nor heard. They have no right whatever to leak.

This anomalous state produces many strange effects. The organizations in question are substantial and able to have direct access to the highest levels of government, but they are accountable to only a handful of ministers and highest officials who have far too many other preoccupations to exercise close control. They generate policy views and attitudes of their own, influenced heavily by their own secret material, although this is only a fraction of the information on which policy judgments ought to be based. Pieces of their information, being labelled secret, can sometimes reach and divert attention at the highest levels before more considered reports, drawing on a much wider range of information but bearing only the unattractive confidential label, can filter through. They can see virtually all the correspondence of the normal departments of government, but others cannot see theirs.

This state of affairs imposes on them a superhuman responsibility to act with discipline and restraint

and not to take advantage of or abuse their privileged though publicly mute position. And added to this, they have to endure the full rigour of the Official Secrets Act without ever enjoying the relief of leaking.

It is not surprising if various behavioural deformations have occurred — ill-discipline, factionalism among the barons of the agencies, an elaborate system of controlled leaking from the top of the agencies through chosen writers, journalists and other mouth-pieces.

It is doubtful whether these tendencies can any longer be kept within tolerable limits or adequately hidden from the public gaze by strict application of the Official Secrets Act. Differential use of the straitjacket is being shown once again in Sydney to lack credibility, and non-differential use would probably impose unwelcome rigidities.

Perhaps what is needed is more exposure of the agencies to the friction of discussion; by better accountability upwards, bringing in a political, parliamentary dimension. An opening sideways might also be healthy. If ways could be found of enabling senior officials in the departments of state, senior officers in major commands of the armed services and heads of diplomatic missions overseas to be better informed about the operations and communications of the agencies and to have less one-sided discussion with them, the agencies could be better influenced by the judgments.

In the long run this might help to avoid situations of the sort which have led to the imbroglio in Sydney. But the problems of ensuring good management of organizations which must necessarily avoid public scrutiny will remain. They deserve more public understanding and sympathy than they are at present receiving.

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Sir Reginald Hibbert, director of the Diachry Foundation, was previously ambassador to France.

Woodrow Wyatt

Anti-apartheid's debit side

Barclays in South Africa was steadfastly anti-apartheid, in its employment of staff, treatment of non-white customers and encouragement of non-white businessmen. By forcing it to withdraw for fear of losing business here and in America, anti-apartheid campaigners have extinguished a powerful engine of advance for non-white communities needing foreign capital. There will be sorrow in the black industrial estates where earlier this year I met black entrepreneurs.

Barclays' departure will intensify the demand for sterner sanctions against South Africa. This will please the mainly middle-class intelligentsia who run the African National Congress and want economic chaos as a breeding ground for violent revolution. It will not please ordinary black, coloured and Indian workers and their rising business and professional middle classes.

In August the Centre for Applied Social Sciences at Natal University collated its own and other surveys on black opinion. Only a quarter or less of blacks in major metropolitan areas supported total divestment or full sanctions. Black workers oppose politically motivated massive job losses. No survey posing the probable consequences of South Africa's economic isolation wins an urban black majority.

Well-meaning and not so well-meaning outsiders who try to impose their own solution are awry. Change has come from internal, not foreign, pressures. The favourite badge figure of anti-apartheid campaigners, President Botha, is the main reformer. He knows better than any foreigners how fast the white population can be pushed apart.

The Pass Laws with their degrading documentation have gone. So has influx control into black townships. The right of all South Africans in the homelands to a common South African passport has been restored.

This has caused a problem in Bophuthatswana which has a democratically-elected government, no South Africans in its administration, and does not rely on South African financial support. It considers itself independent, whatever the rest of the world may think.

The new rights of blacks to own business freeholds and trade in the central districts of major towns has transformed them. The centre of Johannesburg, for instance, is now predominantly in black hands. Blacks now also own the freeholds of their homes. Moreover, the Group Areas Act is

fast falling apart. Three Johannesburg residential areas — Hillbrow, Joubert Park and Berea — were thought to be South Africa's most densely-populated white areas. A survey shows that of the 65,000 people living in them nearly a third are coloured, Indian or black.

The Rand Afrikaans University this month published a poll of the inhabitants and reported that sporting facilities, churches, supermarkets, cinemas, tertiary education, occupation of flats and other buildings are generally open to all races. The substantial majority of whites accept this and more than 60 per cent of whites said they would also be happy to share hospitals and public transport, still partially segregated, with other races. The most resistant to sharing amenities were recent white immigrants.

The Group Areas Act designating areas where the various races may live is doomed. At the very least the many grey areas which already have multi-racial occupation will be legalized after the election, probably to be held in April. Then Botha will be able to get away with a reform of the Group Areas Act which might alienate some white voters if attempted before. The Separate Amenities Act, with its reservation of numerous facilities for white use only, has already gone.

John Kane-Berman, director of the South African Institute of Race Relations, hates apartheid. He sees the momentum of racial equality irresistibly gathering pace because the whites are increasingly ready for it. Soon the only significant item left will be the way in which political power is to be shared.

The bargaining will revolve around the rights and political inputs of the minorities which make up South Africa. The white, Indian, coloured, and Zulu minorities add up to more than the potential followers of the ANC, another minority. The Kwa-Zulu/Natal *indaba*, backed by the Zulu leader, Chief Buthezi, is making headway on a plan for a single legislative body to govern Natal and KwaZulu. This could form a model for power-sharing in the rest of South Africa.

It is homegrown progress of this kind — Chief Buthezi is strongly opposed to sanctions and violence — which offers the best prospect for a peaceful and fair South Africa. Attempts by foreigners who know nothing of the problems of South Africa to force the pace will either slow it down or prevent a genuinely democratic outcome.

Michael Kinsley

Hostages to hypocrisy

Washington

These are trying times for the loyal Reaganite. Not since 1939 when US Communists feared about the Hitler-Stalin pact has a sudden policy reversal put devoted ideologues to such a severe test of devotion. A party line of stark, moral simplicity — no dealing with terrorist states — has suddenly gone all gooey and geopolitical.

As in 1939, many are falling off the train as it rounds this sharp bend. But a tenacious few hold on. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the former US ambassador to the United Nations, for example. Last summer, she was writing with scorn about craven allies who refuse to isolate terrorist nations. Now she writes with equal scorn of those who refuse to recognize "the hard realities with which governments must deal... This is the way the world is... Dealing with terror... may, occasionally, mean paying blackmail." Who would have thought it?

And the geopolitician of all is the president. Last year Iran was part of "a new international version of *Murder Incorporated*". Now it "encompasses some of the most critical geography in the world... oil flows... an absence of dialogue...".

The premeditated complaints about Reagan's dealings with Iran analyse them in terms of ineptitude (blunders), decision-making disaster, or, ironically, geopolitical naïveté (we really should be tilting toward Iraq). Next in order of prestige come moral qualms about trading weapons for hostages. The simple objection that the president was saying one thing and doing another ranks very low.

Even when the focus is on the gap between Reagan's words and deeds the sophisticated term of abuse is "credibility". An interesting word; the implication is that he need not necessarily be sincere, just believable.

It's true that in international diplomacy some hypocrisy is essential. But on the level of politics it is, or ought to be, less acceptable. The question of how to deal with terrorism has been one of the major foreign policy debates of the past few years. The perception that Reagan had very different ideas from President Carter about terrorism in general, and Iran in particular, was a key factor in his election. Yet what is the point of elections if the winners can hide the fact that they aren't doing what they say?

Yes, diplomacy also requires secrecy. Reagan and his defenders have offered Henry Kissinger's secret pre-recognition dealings with China as a supposedly telling

example. How much of that secrecy was diplomatic necessity and how much was Kissingerian melodrama is a nice question. It's hard to believe the China thaw wasn't on the horizon with or without the theatricals. But more important, relations with China were hardly a central political issue while Kissinger was engaged in his derring-do. President Nixon and other administration officials did not spend the months of secret negotiations publicly bragging about their refusal to deal and scolding allies who refused to follow their high-minded example.

There are laws — derived from bitter experience — that are designed to assure democratic review of official actions. To justify operations such as the secret Iran dealings, the funding of Nicaraguan Contras and the Libyan disinformation campaign, the Reagan administration lawyers have worked overtime to produce highly creative, although inadequate, explanation of how these laws don't apply on alternate Thursdays when the moon is full, and so on. It seems that reverence for the wish of democratically-elected representatives applies only if they've been dead for two centuries.

Reagan's new approach to Iran may even be the correct one. It's more sophisticated and more compassionate towards the hostages than his previous tough-guy stance. But Reagan is the one who has made his reputation by seeming to reject both sorts of decadent, geopolitical sophistication and this potentially paralyzing sentimentality.

Most agonizing foreign policy questions usually boil down to the trade-off between innocent lives and long-term national interests. War, for example, is Reagan's alleged "standing tall" means anything, it means that he is more prepared than others to sacrifice the few for the good of the many. In fact, he has been spectacularly successful in having it both ways: taking "tough" actions that only cost the blood of foreigners — albeit including innocent foreigners — such as the Contra war and the Libyan bombing.

The reason Reagan gets away with this is that his hypocrisy mirrors the hypocrisy of the voters, who also want to be hard-nosed and sentimental at the same time. In that sense, unfortunately, the president's duplicity is a fulfillment of democracy more than his betrayal. Americans like being lied to.

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The author is editor of New Republic.

This week a French Médicis prize went for the first time to an English novelist, Julian Barnes — repayment, writes Joanna Richardson, of a long-standing debt

Vive l'entente littéraire



Hugo: a voluntary exile in the Channel Islands



Shakespeare: inspiration for French Romanticism



Byron: influenced Vigny's choice of a wife



Zola: looking a native in his bowler hat

Extraordinary, fruitful, unpredictable, intense. Any of these adjectives — or all of them — might be applied to the relationship between this country and French literature. "How many surprises England held in store for me," wrote Pierre Loti, "apart from the greatest — which was finding myself there!" Despite the occasional outburst of Anglophobia, the relationship is profound. It is, after all, one between two great civilizations.

The English Connection, as one might define it, has depended largely on the vicissitudes of French politics. No one was more aware of this than Chateaubriand. On May 17, 1793, a subaltern in the Armée des Emigrés, he landed as a refugee at Southampton. Poor and unknown, he arrived in London and lodged, for six shillings a month, in an attic off Tottenham Court Road. In 1800 he returned to France and earned fame with *Atala*, and with *Le Génie du Christianisme*, which he had begun in London. Then he embarked on politics.

In 1822, Louis XVIII appointed him ambassador in London. On April 4 he landed at Dover where, he claimed, the castle guns fired a salute. He was still not fired. "There was not," he wrote, "a foot in the United Kingdom who did not prefer the Ambassador to the author of *Le Génie du Christianisme*." A typical Romantic, he now regretted his "world of tribulations and tears". In his first days as ambassador, he haunted Kensington Gardens; for that was there, as he explained, "that I reread the diary of my travels overseas and drew from them the loves of *Atala*; it is in these Gardens... that I set down the first sketches for the passions of *René*". In his *Mémoires d'outre-tombe* he paid repeated tribute to his English years.

Mme de Staël paid two long visits to this country where, in 1813, she met Byron. Byron and Scott remained heroic figures to French men of letters. And so, of course, did Shakespeare. In 1822, an English company gave a Shakespeare season in Paris; it was only seven years since Waterloo, and audiences shouted down "Shakespeare, aid-de-camp de Wellington." But in 1827 another English company was enthusiastically received (and Berlioz fell unhappily in love with Harriet Smithson, who played Ophelia). In the years of French Romanticism, Shakespeare was the overwhelming foreign influence on French literature — translated, discussed and quoted in defence of Romantic doctrines. In fact the French Romantics had remarkably close links with

this country. Sainte-Beuve had the advantage of an English grandmother; although, as Harold Nicolson observed, "he could never speak or understand English with any facility; the most he could do was to construe the simpler passages of poetry or prose." This lack of understanding did not prevent him from attempting an imitation of Thomas Gray. He ventured, more unfortunately, on imitations of Wordsworth and Keats.

Sainte-Beuve was a quarter English by descent; Lamartine and Vigny both elected to marry English women. Mme Lamartine renounced her religion "to be worthy of the Catholic poet of *Les Méditations*". She remained her husband's muse and his delight. Mme de Vigny was to cause her husband much unhappiness. When they met, in Paris in 1824, he was 27 and she was 25. Vigny was under the literary influence of Byron and Moore, and it has been suggested that literature helped to favour his marriage. However that may be, he fell in love, and he did so all the more rapidly since Lydia Bunbury was majestically beautiful, and her father objected to the marriage.

They were married in 1825 and spent their honeymoon in England. It was probably now that he thought of translating *Othello*. *The Merchant of Venice* and *Romeo and Juliet*. From 1829 to 1835, from the performance of his *Othello*, to that of his *Chatterton*, Vigny lived for Shakespeare and for the memory of England. All his life he was drawn to England and to Englishwomen. Not alas, so much to his wife. "Her beauty," wrote his biographer, "like that of most of the daughters of Albion, had lasted no longer than the flower of the camellia. She had been majestic at 25, she became massive at 40 and 40 she no longer had a shape."

She was also a permanent invalid. For 30 years Vigny served her as sick-nurse, permanent secretary and interpreter. It was not love which bound him to her but affection and pity.

Victor Hugo, the son of one of Napoleon's generals, felt small affection for anything English; but in 1852, as a result of Louis-Napoleon's coup d'état, he sought refuge in the "ravishing English island" of Jersey. Thanks to his continuing political activity, he was expelled in 1855 and moved to Guernsey. There he remained for 15 years until the fall of the Second Empire. He could have left in 1859, when Napoleon III granted a general amnesty to the republican exiles; but chose to remain in Guernsey.

He was well aware of the status and commercial value of banishment, even though that banishment was now self-imposed. The personal defiance of Napoleon III, the deliberate choice of martyrdom, gave him a new heroic dimension.

In Guernsey he became, literally, a vassal of Queen Victoria: he paid two hundred francs a year in rent to her, but he would not go beyond *droit de poulx*. When "God Save the Queen" was sung at a public concert, he refused to rise. He knew (his daughter tells us) only two words of English; none the less he wrote a book on Shakespeare, Henri Rochefort, a notorious Anglophobe, decided that Shakespeare owed much of his glory "to the profound admiration which Victor Hugo felt for him."

Hugo showed little gratitude to the nation which had given him asylum and allowed him to write much of his best-known work. Other writers were less antagonistic. Not that they were much more reasonable. In 1861 and, again, in 1862, Hippolyte Taine crossed the Channel, to make preliminary observations for his *Notes sur l'Angleterre*. "I am," he explained, "collecting types, as botanists and zoologists do... You go and sit on a bench on a public path, and you plant yourself in the morning on the arrival platform at a railway station. French eyes, accustomed to French faces, will immediately grasp the differences." Much of his book, to English eyes, simply suggests how far the most scientific writer may go astray.

Taine may have expressed some curious views in his *Notes* and his *Histoire de la littérature anglaise*, but he came to have a deep affection for England; his love of Oxford, in particular, was shared by many other French writers in the latter years of the 19th century. In 1883, Paul Bourget, the novelist, attended Eights Week and Ennemi and declared: "Thrones will fall and men will pass, but ancient Oxford cannot pass — this Oxford to which Dante might have come."

In 1893, the poet Verlaine arrived in Oxford to lecture on French poetry "in the room behind Mr Blackwell's shop" and became so enamoured of the city that he needed much persuasion to depart. Many years later it was disclosed that his lecture fee had been withheld until he was safely on the London train.

Verlaine was followed, in 1894, by Mallarmé. Although he had taught English for many years, Mallarmé's spoken and written English clearly left a lot to be desired but, thanks to "the admin-

istrative chinoiserie of the Curators of the Taylorian", foreign lecturers were obliged to deliver their lectures in English and then, again, in their native tongue.

Professor York Powell of Christ Church, who had entertained Verlaine, spent an exhausting night translating *Les lettres et la musique*. He delivered the English version of the lecture next day, in front of a bewildered Mallarmé. The original lecture was then given by Mallarmé himself.

A few weeks later, the ailing Alphonse Daudet and his wife arrived in Oxford to see something of Eights Week, and, inevitably, watch "le croquet". Emile Zola had other concerns. In 1898, after the publication of *J'accuse...* and the trial at which he was sentenced to imprisonment, he escaped to London. He lived, under various names, at various addresses in London and Surrey. He cycled around Walton and Weybridge, took photographs of Windsor Castle and the Crystal Palace. His translator, Vizenly, reported that "he purchased a bowler, which greatly altered his appearance. Indeed, there is nothing like a bowler to make a foreigner look English."

It was in a rented house near Weybridge that this gloriously obvious foreigner began *Fecondité*, the first in the turgid series of novels called *Les Quatre Evangelies*. He finished it at the Queen's Hotel in Norwood.

England has done much for French writers: provided them with inspiration, wives, political asylum, even, perhaps, with pure simple pleasure, an unexpected affection for this country. One of the most rabid, least curable Anglophobes, Pierre Loti, arrived in England for the first time in 1909. He was 59 years old; he had sailed around the world before he brought himself across the Channel. "It's strange," he wrote, "I imagined that in London everything would be offensive to me, and on the contrary I feel that it is gradually weakening my racial hatred of this nation, the eternal enemy of our own."

Soon afterwards, at the French embassy, he was presented to Edward VII. "Ah!" said the King, holding out his hand, "so this is the Anglophobe!"

"Your Majesty," said Loti, "I am much less so already." The *entente cordiale* was now officially five years old, but for Loti it had only just begun.

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Julian Barnes won the essay category of the Prix Médicis for his novel *Flaubert's Parrot*, published by Jonathan Cape. Joanna Richardson is the author of biographies of Stendahl and Verlaine.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE PRESIDENT AT BAY

President Reagan's famous luck has not altogether deserted him. Not only did the discovery of the Contra connection emerge almost on the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday which imposed some restraint upon media criticism, but the fact that Congress is out of session until January 6 preserves the White House from the hostile scrutiny of Democrat-controlled congressional committees until then. The President must use this interval to restore order and confidence to an administration which currently suffers from disarray and mistrust.

If Mr Reagan fails to revive the administration's standing in popular esteem, he will spend the last two years of office engaged in defensive manoeuvres against congressional investigations as the Democrats finally see the teflon wearing off. That might not matter overmuch in domestic policy where the President has already established his major objectives such as tax reform. The Democrats, anxious to establish their moderate credentials, are unlikely to try to overturn them.

But paralysis in government could obstruct and undermine Mr Reagan's foreign policy. His objectives here include reaching an agreement with the Soviet Union on arms control, human rights and regional issues; keeping protectionism at bay; isolating Nicaragua in Central America; and shoring up the alliance by keeping troops in Europe.

All of these policies are either unrealistic, like an arms control agreement, or insecure, such as keeping protectionism at bay. A government which is weak, divided, unpopular and distracted by scandal cannot hope to pursue them effectively. Indeed, it might not

be able to pursue a foreign policy of any kind.

Not even the President's most supercilious critics should be pleased by that prospect. With the exception of his backing for the Contras, the aims outlined above should command general support. Though not urgent, they cannot wait two and a half years for a new President to be ready to tackle them. And the likely result of drift will be exactly that — a drift to protectionism, to alliance disarray and to increasingly tense relations between the superpowers.

To avert that Mr Reagan must first, in Dr Henry Kissinger's formulation, admit immediately what must be revealed eventually. He cannot risk even a suspicion of a cover-up. In this regard, a good start has been made with the Justice Department investigation under a suddenly impressive Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney General, and the inquiry into the National Security Council under three genuinely wise "wise men".

Nor can the President avoid admitting personally that the Iranian arms-for-hostages deal was a mistake, quite irrespective of its connection to the Contra slush fund.

His most essential step, however, will now be to reconstruct the senior levels of his administration. The first requirement of any appointees must be that they command public confidence. That almost certainly means that his Chief of Staff, Mr Donald Regan, who dominated the White House machine in which the scandal germinated, should gracefully retire.

When it comes to filling such posts as the National Security Advisor's, Mr Regan's own job and perhaps

that of Secretary of State in a few months, a major consideration should be that the new men can work together with a minimum of friction. The argument that the Secretary of State must necessarily be at odds with the NSC advisor is a half-truth on stilts. One of the two must, admittedly, be superior — as Dr Kissinger was over General Secoroff.

But such an outcome could be achieved again by, for example, placing Mr Casper Weinberger at the State Department and Mr John Lehmann, now the Navy Secretary, at the head of the NSC. Or by leaving Mr George Shultz where he is and moving his protégé, Mr Elliot Abrams, from the Latin American desk to the NSC. These permutations can be multiplied.

Mr Reagan, by such steps, might begin to regain public support and revive his Presidency. That perhaps looks unlikely in the immediate aftermath of the Contra revelations. But it was in that aftermath that he obtained a respectable 53 per cent popularity rating in an opinion poll in which, significantly, three-quarters of the respondents also thought that he was lying about the Contra money.

The Democrats are only too aware that Mr Reagan can call upon a large fund of goodwill as the President who has restored the self-confidence of his country. They may shrink from destructive political warfare. Nor should outsiders ignore the respect that almost all Americans feel for the office of the Presidency.

It may be that, for all these reasons, Mr Reagan will recover sufficiently to conduct foreign policy in the two years left to him. It is in the interest of the entire West that he should do so.

Implications of Barclays pull-out

From Mr Christopher M. Jackson, MEP for East Kent (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, I wonder how many people who abhor apartheid realise the blow to black progress implicit in Barclays' decision to withdraw from South Africa (report, November 24).

The disinvestment lobby has been frantically active against Barclays — yet Barclays National in relation to its size employs about twice the proportion of non-whites as the average of other banks. It employed the first black cashier, the first black manager, and gave the first multi-racial training even when that was against the law.

I have seen for myself in Soweto the splendid results of its giving 5 per cent of post-tax profit for educational, medical and welfare work among blacks. Not for nothing did Barclays earn in South Africa the sobriquet "the anti-apartheid bank".

Barclays has, fortunately, been acquired by another fighter against apartheid, Anglo-American, which has a far-sighted and courageous chairman. Yet disinvestment has received a major boost, and other companies may now feel inclined to follow Barclays' example.

By whom will they be bought? The risk is clear: forced sellers may well be acquired by local companies less opposed to apartheid, even perhaps inclined to the status quo.

Lacking the pressure-point of the EEC code of conduct, we in Europe will lose even our current influence over these companies. More important, they will be cut off from the progressive influence of their former owners. Non-whites will lose out, and white South Africa will become more entrenched and self-sufficient.

Barclays responded to the pressures on it but I hope that other companies will give full weight to the benefit of their presence in South Africa in the fight against apartheid and in giving opportunities to non-whites.

I hope, too, that as pressure is increased on South Africa to accelerate the pace of change away from apartheid, more emphasis will be given to the need to avoid harm to blacks.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, 8 Wellmeade Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, November 26.

Car tax dodgers

From Mr Lester S. Low, Sir, The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (report, November 20) blames evasion and derisory fines — on those that are prosecuted — for the loss of £99m revenue every year from tax dodgers.

The explanations for the derisory fines — delays in bringing prosecutions and difficulties in securing payment of fines — as given by the clerk of a London magistrates' court in your report on November 21, do not give grounds for expecting any improvement in this situation.

And yet the solution seems so simple: surely these untaxed vehicles are obvious candidates for instant wheelclamping and removal to the local police pound? This immediate action is particularly appropriate since

these unlicensed cars are quite likely also to be without either third-party insurance or test certificate and their continued use would have serious safety implications for other road users.

Unroadworthy, uninsured and untested cars should be held in the police pound until all legal requirements are satisfied — including payment of outstanding duty, insurance, fines and costs or an adequate bond pending the outcome of prosecution.

If the police and prosecution services do not have the legal authority or resources to impound vehicles as suggested above, who could be better placed to remedy this than the members of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee?

Yours faithfully, LESTER LOW, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.

Royal rats

From the President of the British Goat Society

Sir, Having kept goats for over forty years in town and country I can assure Mr Thornber (November 24) that (i) it is only the male goat that smells and (ii) it does not deter Mr or Mrs Kat.

Every autumn, as soon as the weather becomes cold and wet, rats move into the goatsheds, which provides them with a warm nest for the winter from the hay the goats waste by pulling out of the rack more than they need. As goats are very fastidious they will not eat anything that has been dropped on the floor.

When the invasion begins there is nothing for it but to summon the pest officer, who has never failed to rid us of our unwelcome visitors.

Yours faithfully, M. E. K. PENNINGTON (President, British Goat Society), 52 Broad Street, Alresford, Hampshire, November 25.

An atom of truth

From Mr Peter Gray Lucas

Sir, It was good to read Professor Seaton's challenge (November 22) to the church dignitary (article, November 15) who draws metaphysical consequences from quantum theory, but when this sort of practice is so common, is there much point in protesting?

If there were a silly-Nobel prize, Heisenberg would be the reluctant winner. More and sillier spiritual consequences have been drawn from his uncertainty principle than from any other "modern" scientific theory.

This has been going on for four centuries and there is a gigantic literature, some of it by people who ought to have known better.

Leibniz was delighted by what he saw through von Leeuwenhoek's microscope because it helped to demonstrate the existence of God, and was apprehensive about von Guericke's vacuum experiments for the opposite reason. Newton thought the universe was a bit of a hot-up and needed a God to adjust it occasionally.

Secrets actions beyond compare

From Lord Scarman

Sir, The Peter Wright affair has led some (not you, Sir) to make a comment contrasting English and Australian judicial attitudes towards the Executive which is unjust to the English judges concerned and based on a false premise.

The suggestion, which is put in different ways, amounts to this: that the judges in the English action have shown an accommodating attitude towards the demands of the Executive in contrast with the sturdy independence of Mr Justice Powell in Australia.

The suggestion is unjust because it is based on a fallacy. Like has not been compared with like: chalk has been compared with cheese.

The Attorney General's action in the English courts (report, July 12) has not yet reached trial. In Australia Mr Justice Powell is conducting the final trial of the Australian action.

The English action is at an interim stage. The Attorney General has obtained an injunction restraining publication until trial on further order. The facts have not been investigated, nor has evidence been tested: that will be done at trial.

A fair comparison would be between the stages of interim relief in the two actions. The English judges (subject to appeal to the House of Lords) have granted the Government an interim injunction: but so, I understand, did the Australian court at that stage of the Australian action.

Let us not pass judgment on the judges concerned in England or Australia until we know the outcome and have observed the trial process in each jurisdiction. I am, Sir, etc, SCARMAN, House of Lords, November 26.

No hands on deck

From Captain R. G. Sharpe, RN

Sir, The shipwreck of the Kowloon Bridge has in part been "assisted" by the ever-ready and sometimes over zealous rescue services.

The scenario isn't new: terrible weather; mechanical failure; structural damage; ship sinking; SOS calls; distress flares; and in come the airborne cavalry. Great skill; considerable personal bravery; everyone rescued; Press and television; brave! Embarrassingly, the next day the ship is still afloat and by now a real hazard to lots of other people.

I was involved in the North Sea in 1981 in a similar incident on a smaller scale (the Mayday distress call came from a fishing boat) and when daylight came the rescued skipper and his engineer were quietly put back on board.

In that incident we had the sailors' advantage of being able to stay in the vicinity of the "wreck" and monitor its movements from the comparative comfort of a long thin destroyer; and the helicopter was, of course, instantly available on the flight deck.

The moral is that a sinking ship, like a crashing aircraft, is a considerable hazard to more than just its crew and if you take them off you may have to put some back, if only to assist in the salvage.

Yours faithfully, R. G. SHARPE, Foundry House, Kingsley, nr Bordon, Hampshire, November 25.

Zambian posting

From Miss Waljé Gondwe

Sir, I read with interest your report in yesterday's Times concerning a decision by the Foreign Office last April to withdraw Mrs Sue Darling Rogerson's proposed posting to Lusaka because Zambia was a "male-dominated society."

I would be very grateful if you could bring to the attention of your readers the fact that as long ago as the late 1970s Zambia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom was a woman barrister, Miss Lombe Chibwe. I am sure this supports the evidence that Zambia is "a forward-looking society where women play an important role", as pointed out by Mrs Rogerson's solicitor.

Yours faithfully, WALJÉ GONDWE, 41 Chiswick Road, NW5, November 26.

The argument for the Great Designer still features regularly in your columns, nowadays usually drawing on probability statistics.

Even so, I doubt whether any real abuse of science is being perpetrated. People acquire their metaphysical principles first and then fit selected morsels of science to them. But the very idea of such a fit is meaningless and therefore invulnerable to argument, whether it takes the form of naive positivism or mystical quantum-adulation.

Some of this is harmless. The Canon of Windsor will kneel anyway, and if quantum theory makes it a bit more exciting for him, who would deprive him of the thrill? Unfortunately, it can also be very harmful. But the evidence of the last 400 years is that people, including, regrettably, some scientists, are not going to stop doing it.

Yours truly, PETER GRAY LUCAS, 8 Alpha Road, Cambridge, November 24.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 29 1920

This parliamentary portrait by Herbert Sidebottom (1872-1946), a distinguished political journalist much sought after by the national papers, appeared during Lloyd George's last coalition government. Arthur Balfour, whose mother was a sister of the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, was Lord President of the Council, he accepted an earldom in 1922. Lord Robert Cecil was Lord Salisbury's third son; he was created viscount in 1928 and was president of the League of Nations Union for more than twenty years.

FRONT BENCH FIGURES.

3.—THE CECILIANS.

FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE.

(By a Student of Politics.)

Mr Balfour, now floridly benign, a rich oratorical voice issuing forth from the obscure recesses of the Coalition; Lord Robert Cecil, a Hamlet in politics, noble of sentiment and frail of purpose; Lord Hugh, Mercutio in a cowl, intellectually athletic on a diet of dilemmas; Mr Ormsby-Gore, still looking like an Elton boy, full of good sense and good sense, as First, Second, and Third Lord, the trenchant Lord Winterton, Mr Walter Guinness the frank, and Mr Edward Wood the earnest, not forgetting Lord Palmer, though one seldom sees him, and, of course, the Marquess of Salisbury, carrying but hardly wielding the sword of his great name. These are the Cecilians. Only Mr. Balfour, sits on the Front Bench, there mourned by his family, but whenever they sit the Cecilians have their minds at any rate on the Front Bench. They were born to the Ministry, whether they get there or not....

For twenty years before the war there was hardly an enthusiasm in politics that did not find its enemies in the Cecilia. Irish Home Rule, Tariff Reform, Imperial Federation, nearly every movement for organic change has withered alike under their sympathy and their opposition; every pension and nearly every hope in politics owes them a grudge, none the less deep because their criticism has often been wise and justified by the event....

From Mr. Balfour nothing is to be hoped. He does not seriously believe in politics as an instrument of human progress; to him they are merely the art of neutralising forces and engaging them in an equilibrium that is more or less stable, so that the really serious activities of the world may not be interfered with. What these are, he is not clear. For Mr. Balfour they are the critical enjoyment of the intellectual play of human life, with himself in a comfortable box; for others, the making of money; he himself has said that what makes most difference to human happiness is science, thinking that, perhaps, because he knows so little about it. Office he loves, not for the sake of exercising power, but for the feeling that it gives him that he could exercise power if he chose to do so. In fact, he no more influences the policy of the Coalition than Jonah steered the whale.

LOED R. CECIL AS HAMLET

The only hope is in Lord Robert Cecil; Lord Hugh is the ablest man, but with him politics at best are only the clasp of ordered society, and the springs which move its elaborate mechanism are to be found in religion alone. The age is not really irreligious, but the semi-political forms of Lord Hugh's religion do not attract it, and for all the brilliancy of his intellect he is disqualified for leadership. Lord Robert Cecil is in better case, and less than a year ago he seemed marked out to be the real leader of the Opposition. He has dignity and a personality; he speaks well enough always, and when he is moved by eloquence, he has character and the broad humanity of his class, something of Mr. Balfour's dialectical skill combined with greater fertility of ideas and more industry. The House thought much of him, and from the Labour benches in particular he always had an attentive and sympathetic hearing....

These hopes that were formed of Lord Robert have not been realised, and the reason is that he cannot fight. Something always gets in the way.... He suffers from the fatal defect in rough-and-tumble politics of always seeing the strength of the argument against him, and he can no more stand up to the Prime Minister in a controversy than he could box with a dinosaur....

But if the Cecilians have still to learn the work of opposition, they have shown that they can strike fire and conceive a genuine enthusiasm. Mr. Balfour's Zionism is something Lord Robert Cecil's advocacy of the League of Nations and his pity for the plight of Eastern Europe have had power and sincerity and his humanity moves one. The younger men, too, have done well on Ireland, and shown that if they cannot as yet conceive they can conceive a problem in a big-hearted and generous way. These are promising signs, and there are still the makings of a new party, not big perhaps, but influential and distinguished....

Cover-up down under

From Mr H. McG. Dunnett

Sir, After years of clean-shaven faces, occasionally embellished with a moustache, this must be the first Test Match series when the captains of England and Australia both wear beards.

Yours truly, H. MCG. DUNNETT, 4 The Close, Eliot Vale, SE3.

MR KINNOCK'S EDUCATIONAL VISIT

The Washington atmosphere into which Neil Kinnock arrives today is very different from the one expected when his visit was originally planned. Congressional preoccupation with the revelations concerning the Iranian arms deals are likely to draw the spotlight away from Mr Kinnock. Since Labour's defence policy is in no sense ready for the spotlight, this development is likely to be in his favour.

The visit marks the beginning of a campaign, which the Labour Party hopes will provide the British electorate with a rational case for the unilateral renunciation of nuclear weapons. Under former Labour leader, Michael Foot, unilateral disarmament, the centre-piece of the Labour Party's defence policy, was asserted as a simple moral position, with little regard for the practical realities of European defence.

Mr Kinnock's policies are in substantial respects the same as those advocated by his predecessor. But the unity of the party and the presentation of its policies are, at the moment at least, in much better shape. Moreover, Labour senses some political tides in its favour, isolationist sentiments in America as well as anti-American sentiments in Britain.

The central proposition re-

mains that nuclear deterrence may have kept the peace in Europe for over forty years, but that there is no guarantee it will continue to do so. Labour argues that the threat of Soviet territorial expansion in Western Europe is greatly exaggerated, while the threat of a nuclear accident or a series of misunderstandings between the superpowers is increasing.

The time has come, Mr Kinnock will say, for a radical departure in Britain's defence policy. By abolishing our independent deterrent, removing American nuclear weapons and increasing spending on conventional forces in Nato, Labour sees Britain pointing the way to a defence policy which will eventually be embraced by all our West European Nato allies, and perhaps even the superpowers themselves.

This is a radical alteration of British defence policy, proceeding on the basis of evidence that is at best implausible and at worst catastrophically dangerous. But it would be unwise to assume that for these reasons alone it will lose Labour the election. The difference between Mr Kinnock and Mr Foot is that Mr Kinnock knows how Herculean is his task in convincing the US, our European neighbours and the British electorate to endorse Labour's "blind leap of faith".

Influential figures in both the Republican and Democrat parties have retorted that Labour's action would lead to a new wave of isolationism in America and precipitate the dissolution of Nato. Mr Kinnock hopes that this kind of reaction can be put down to the fact that Labour's defence policies have largely been explained to Americans by Labour's adversaries. He hopes that American hostility is thus less deep seated than it appears. Once the Americans understand that Britain will remain committed to Nato, and will increase its conventional contribution to Europe's security, he argues, then the US reaction will soften.

Even if the reaction does not soften, Mr Kinnock believes that a future Labour Government could call the American bluff, on the assumption that the US would be loathe to lose those non-nuclear British bases which play so vital a role in America's global security. This, believes Mr Kinnock, is Labour's trump card.

These are high-risk games for the highest stakes. It is to be hoped that Mr Kinnock will listen to his hosts as well as to his advisers on this trip, that he will learn as well as lecture, and thus use the cover of Washington's domestic preoccupations to real advantage.

Want him to stop biting us, and - grim though the conclusion is - we are of the opinion that the only good mosquito is a dead one.

The frontiers of science must, we know, be constantly pushed out. We cannot stop the march of progress, man's inquiring mind must be free to roam at will, no one can say what undiscovered trifles are waiting to be snapped up. But surely a compromise is possible? And we think we have devised one for the mosquito-men.

Let the Louisville scientists be shut up with an ample supply of nordihydroguaric acid and a perfectly enormous number of hungry mosquitoes. Their task will be to make the elixir safe for us; their incentive to achieve that aim rapidly will be our promise to let them out as soon as they have done so. We think that our plan is exactly what is meant by the phrase "the bitter bit", and we rather suspect that, in time, the scientists will come to think so too.

FOURTH LEADER

A group of scientists at the University of Louisville have discovered a substance which they claim lengthens the life of a mosquito by 50 per cent. The elixir is called nordihydroguaric acid (we think that is how it is spelled) and when it is added to the mosquito's diet, the little fellow can look forward not just to his present average life-span of some three and a half weeks, but to a serene old age of 35 days.

Which is good news for the mosquitoes; but we cannot help feeling that the scientists have very seriously misunderstood their instructions. What most of us have long been seeking is a substance that will reduce the life-span of a mosquito, preferably by 100 per cent.

The scientists have an answer; they say that they were looking for a substance that would prolong human life, and no doubt they felt that they must walk before they can run; first mosquitoes, then mice, then dogs... finally, we shall all live forever.

Provided, that is, that we



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 28: His Excellency Mr. Olfur Egilsson was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Iceland to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr. Svein Björnsson (Minister, Counsellor) and Mr. Stefán Gunnlaugsson (Commercial Counsellor).

Mrs. Egilsson had the honour of being received by The Queen. Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by The Queen was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, received Lieutenant-Colonel T.L.M. Porter upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel D.J. Ross upon assuming the appointment.

The Colonel of the Regiment (Brigadier Anthony Vivian) was in attendance.

His Excellency Mr. Benjamin K. Kipkulei and Mrs. Kipkulei were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Kenya in London.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre at Huntingdon today.

Major Rowan Jackson, RM was in attendance.

The Duke of York, President of the Royal Aero Club, accompanied by The Duchess of York, this evening presented the Dawn to Dusk Awards at the Royal Aeronautical Society (President Dr J.W. Fozard).

Their Royal Highnesses were received by the Vice-President of the Club (Mr Ian Scott-Hill) and the Vice-Chairman (Mr David Hamilton).

Miss Helen Hughes and Wing Commander Adam Wise were in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, this morning attended part of the Corps Committee Meeting, and afterwards was entertained at luncheon, at Regimental Headquarters, Regent's Park, SW1.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Master of Signals (Major-General J.M.W. Bedcock).

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this afternoon visited the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School (Dean, Professor T. Glenister) at the Reynolds Building, St Dunstan's Road, W6.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham (Councillor Mrs Joan Caruana) and the Vice-Chancellor of the University (The Lord Flowers).

Afterwards, The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips visited the Institute of Dental Surgery (Dean, Professor G. Winter) at Eastman Dental Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, WC1, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Principal of the University (Mr P. Holwell).

Mrs. Timothy Holderness Roddam was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) at the Funeral of His Excellency Dr. Ho Guo Lin (High Commissioner for Singapore) which was held in the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster this morning.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 28: The Prince of Wales, Chairman, The Prince of Wales' Committee, this morning presented Awards Certificates at the 1986 Award Ceremony for The Prince of Wales' Committee at Colwyn Bay.

His Royal Highness, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Anderson, travelled in the Royal Train.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will preside at the degree ceremony at the Albert Hall on December 3.

The Duchess of York is to be Patron of the Carr-Gomm Society, a charitable housing association in London.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Thistlethorn-Smith will be held at the Church of St Mary and St Gabriel, Harting, Hampshire, at noon today.

A memorial service for Dr L.H. Jeffery will be held in the Chapel of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, at 2.15 today.

A memorial meeting for Mrs Joan Bennett will be held at Giron College, Cambridge, at 2.30 today.

Birthdays
TODAY: Professor Sir Ivor Betschler, 70; Mr George Canale, 77; Sir Eric Drake, 76; Professor Sir Michael Howard, 64; Sir Edward Hulton, 80; Mr Derek Jackson, 37; Professor Frank Kermode, 67; Mr Cecil Madden, 84; Mr Geoffrey Moorhouse, 55; Mr Toby Robertson, 58; Sir James Scott-Hopkins, MEP, 65; Sir David Steel, 70; Sir Peter Tennant, 76; Mr Alan Lee Williams, 56.

TOMORROW: Mr Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, 81; Sir John Burder, 86; Sir Walter Coult, 74; Mr George Duffield, 40; Mr D. W. Fry, 76; Sir Victor Goodwin, 77; Mr Charles Hawley, 72; Mr Geoffrey Household, 86; Mr Louis Kirby, 58; Mr Gary Lineker, 26; Mr Radu Lupu, 41; Mr W. G. D. Morgan, 51; Lord Parry, 61; Miss Marguerite Porter, 38; Sir Stanley Ross, 79; Mr Max Reinhardt, 71; Colonel Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, 82.

David Goodacre

Unemployment as a challenge

Not long ago a Consett steelman, addressing the TUC said: "When I finish I will go the same way as all other out-of-work steel workers: I will do nothing till I die".

The steelman was, I hope, overstating his case, because although he was appropriately expressing the outrage of so many in Consett and throughout Britain who face the disaster of unemployment, it would be said if what he said was true, that there was nothing more till death. Disaster is not only disaster, it is also implicit challenge.

On the face of it, to become unemployed, even to experience the threat of it, is to face a seemingly hopeless future. A worker feels, even if it is not the case, that he or she is being rejected.

The familiar pattern of bereavement follows, initial shock leading to anger, to grief, distress finally working itself out in the direction of a positive or negative resignation to a new reality; a reality which is the more devastating in that three million are already unemployed, and the actual number of jobs, especially for the unskilled, is alarmingly small.

Most of those who find work, find it within the first three months of unemployment. The problem is much worse for those who have been unemployed for longer than a year. Their opinion of themselves often becomes so low that when they do apply for a job, their depressed hearing militates against them.

The Job Clubs which are springing up all over the country are addressing these issues precisely to this problem. They recognise that if a person is to be offered a job, it is necessary to give him or her the spirit, to the person who is confident and full of vision; qualities not often observed in the unemployed.

The situation then is that society

challenges the unemployed, people who by the nature of the case are likely to be in reduced circumstances, to discover within themselves resources which will make them the most alive.

They face a hard truth of the spiritual way, that when people in the worst circumstances, they must somehow cope with their steepest test. They are like people in a dry valley, who must somehow find water. How is it to be done?

Some help can be discovered in one of the most valuable distillations of spiritual wisdom in the West, the rule of St Benedict. Benedict drew together the accumulated insights of the desert fathers, and other experimenters in spiritual living, and formed them into a coherent balanced whole.

The rule emphasizes that the body, the mind, and the spirit each need discipline if the person is to develop an appropriate style of living.

Benedict argued that the integration of the body required work with the hands and good works; the integration of the mind required studies, in Christian terms the studying of the Bible leading to contemplative prayer, in secular terms, educational refreshment to maintain alertness; the integration of the spirit required the practice of humility and obedience, by which can be understood the acceptance of the events and demands of life with gladness.

The Benedictine rule advises six hours for manual work, four for spiritual reading, and four for liturgical prayer.

It is instructive to turn from these ancient writings to the C of E's Living in Faith, published by the Church of England's Middlesbrough organization, In-pulse. In-pulse identifies six essentials for human living. The first is to contribute to the well-being of others.

Every society requires its chores to be done, and there does seem to be something inherently enriching in the dutiful doing of such tasks, whether such activity earns money or not. A second essential is that each person should receive sufficient to survive. This corresponds to the six hours of manual work.

The third essential, the need to contribute something creative, inevitably exercises the mind, whether that creativity is purely mental or involves making or constructing something. This could be the equivalent to the spiritual reading.

Two further essentials are the opportunity to meet others and to be valued as a person. Both are vital spiritual values that require the nourishment of companionship, and for true person living, some placing of supreme value on transcendental reality, at best, prayer. These correspond to the liturgical prayer.

In-pulse's last essential is "the opportunity to have some order in life". This is perhaps the fundamental insight of the Benedictine rule, which infuses its every part. The unemployed person who neglects order, rises at midday and drifts aimlessly without focus or pattern, is in danger of falling apart.

Attention to these basics of living is essential to the unemployed, who must not realize how many things depend on their work to meet these needs. It follows that if the unemployed attend to them in their unemployment, they create something of very real value.

They become like people who in fact find water despite desperate conditions. Those who win through become symbols of creating living, victors over spiritual difficulty.

The writer is Editor of "Health and Healing", and Vicar of Ovingham.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Wolfe Murray
and **Miss M.Z. Zerb**

The engagement is announced between Rory, son of Mr James Wolfe Murray and the Hon Mrs Diana Wolfe Murray, of 12 Cambridge Road, Wimbledon, and Maria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E. Smith, of Hunts Cross, Liverpool.

Mr S.J.A. Harrison
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The engagement is announced between Andrew (Algy), younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Wolstenholme, of Fitzgibbon Avenue, London, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Barnes, of Gibraltar Farm, Fife, Sussex.

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The model choirboys who never stop singing



An angelic chorus of mechanical waifs sing carols to passers-by from the windows of Simpson's department store in Piccadilly. The automatons move their heads and hymn books in time to a selection of traditional Christmas carols. Mrs. Lisa O'Nione and her son, Daniel, aged 4, from Camberwell, were enthralled by the non-stop choristers.

Fares rise above inflation

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Rail fares are to increase by up to 10 per cent in January. Although the average rise will be 5 per cent, the lowest British Rail fare increase for four years, it is still substantially above the rate of inflation — currently 3 per cent.

The increase, which will take effect on January 11, will bring British Rail £58 million extra revenue in a full year.

The British Railways Board said yesterday that, since 1980, average rail fares had risen by less than inflation. The average cost of rail travel, per mile, had gone up by 43 per cent between 1980 and 1986. The cost of running a private car, the railway's biggest competitor, had risen by 51 per cent.

The need to raise prices this year, by more than the rate of inflation, is undoubtedly a

reflection of pressure to meet financial targets set by the Government.

The subsidy in the current financial year was set last month at £712 m, 25 per cent below the level of the 1983 subsidy, in real terms, with a further reduction of nearly 25 per cent to be achieved in the following three years.

For travellers on Network SouthEast, the average increase will be 4.9 per cent, though the cost of season tickets will go up by an average of 5.8 per cent.

On InterCity services, which after next year are expected to operate without subsidy, many economy tickets will be held at present rates, but increases of up to 10 per cent will be applied to some long-distance season tickets.

On provincial services the average increase will be around 6 per cent, but British Rail says most fares will rise by only 4.5 per cent, though there will be some increases of up to 10 per cent to reflect current market rates, or where the quality of the service has been improved by the introduction of new rolling stock.

Some examples of fare increases are:

London to Birmingham: 2nd class single fare up from £15 to £15.70.

London to York: 2nd class single fare up from £25.50 to £26.50.

London to Brighton: 2nd class cheap day return up by 20p to £7.40; 7-day season ticket, up by £1.80 to £32.60; annual season ticket up from £1,332 to £1,340.

CIA arms role investigated

Continued from page 1

accept Iranian payment for American arms.

Sources said Mr Casey was one of the handful of officials who during the past year regularly received copies of top secret communications intercepted that reportedly provided the clues last week that allowed the Justice Department to unravel what had happened.

Admiral John Pindexter, the National Security Adviser who resigned on Tuesday, said privately that Mr Casey was "heavily involved".

Mr Casey has been one of the Contra's strongest backers in the Reagan Administration. Official sources said the CIA has intensely followed the progress of the rebels.

The possible involvement of Vice-President George Bush is coming under increasing scrutiny. An Oregon bus-

nessman said he informed Mr Bush of reports he had heard early this year that the Department of Defence was planning to buy weapons for the Contras with profits from Iran arms sales.

Mr Richard Brenneke said Mr Bush replied: "We will look into it." His assertion would contradict assurances by Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, that no senior Administration figure knew about the Contra connection.

His statements were made after a court case had forced the Government to release memoranda he had written to various Government officials between November 30 1985 and February 25 this year. Defence lawyers in an Iran arms sale case being tried in New York successfully forced the release of the documents to bolster their contention that

the Administration was sending arms to Iran.

Colonel North is receiving strong support from leading conservatives here who have been angered at his dismissal and say he was essential in the operation to support the Contras. Many conservative activists said Mr North was "the fall guy" and they fear that the Administration will now back away from its involvement with the Contras.

Colonel North was pictured in all the newspapers here yesterday leaving the White House entrance after being refused entry. A spokesman said he had been placed on the list of those barred.

Colonel North has refused to answer reporters' questions about the reported shredding of documents and said he would make a full explanation "in the appropriate forum".

Letter from Peking

Confucius revived in modern China

At the end of a mile-long gravel avenue lined with 800-year-old juniper trees looms the Kong Lin, China's great Confucian cemetery. More of a rambling overgrown park than a burial ground, the area contains hundreds of tombs of the great sage's descendants and many more stelae bearing his words of wisdom.

Inside the Kong Lin, just past the temple of offerings, lies the tomb of Kong Fuzi, a grassy mound 15 ft high and 24 ft wide. A stele erected in 1443 bears the inscription: "Tomb of the Prince Wen Xuan, very accomplished and very holy."

Born in Qufu in 551 BC and buried in his hometown 72 years later, Confucius lived in a divided China. His cemetery is located on the ruins of the capital of the state of Lu, of which he was a citizen and which was one of several Chinese "warring states" of that age.

In an effort to create order out of the chaos of his time, Confucius compiled standards of conduct by which private men and great rulers should, he thought, govern themselves. He also searched, in vain, for a prince who could put his teachings into practice.

Though Confucius never organized his precepts into books, others did, and they became the cultural basis of China.

From the Han Dynasty (roughly 150 BC) to the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, succeeding rulers used his Analects as the basis of higher learning.

The great helmsman, Mao Tse-tung, expressed grudging admiration for the sage, but opposed Confucianism as a relic of China's feudal past. After taking power in 1949 the Chinese Communists sought to suppress Confucianism and many temples were closed.

The high tide of anti-Confucianism came during the cultural revolution (1967-1976), when Red guards descended on Qufu and destroyed as much as they could of the Confucian past. Of Confucius and his teachings Mr Zhang Chunqiao, then

China's Deputy Prime Minister and a member of the Gang of Four, said in 1975: "Rubbish such as his never vanishes of itself where the broom of the proletariat does not reach".

Today, however, 2,537 years after his birth, Kong Fuzi is making a comeback in China, and instead Mr Zhang has been swept aside.

Like the emperors of old, Mr Deng Xiaoping and his supporters have found in Confucianism the same respect for education, intellectual achievement and authority that they want to instil in modern China.

Since the late 1970s Peking has spent more than £67,000 rebuilding Qufu's temples, pavilions and stelae. Theoretical journals have re-examined Confucian thought, private Confucian societies have sprung up across the country, and a government-run Confucian Foundation of China was set up in 1984.

Moreover, at a time when Peking is attempting to woo Taiwan back to the mainland fold and to induce overseas Chinese to lead their money and professional expertise to rebuild China, the revival of Confucianism and traditional Chinese values is being used to promote the mainland as the home of all Chinese.

"We have begun with government funds," said Mr Gao Jinghong, the rather bland director of the Qufu office of the Confucian Foundation of China, "but we would like to reach the point where we are sustained by contributions from overseas Chinese".

Mr Gao's bureaucratic boredom (postings are assigned in China) was more than offset by the enthusiasm of a self-appointed tour guide who told a group of 50 middle-aged cadres: "We are all descended from Confucius and everyone should have a basic understanding of Confucianism." Dr Wang then told one of the sage's followers who had camped by his mound for six years mourning his death and studying his sayings.

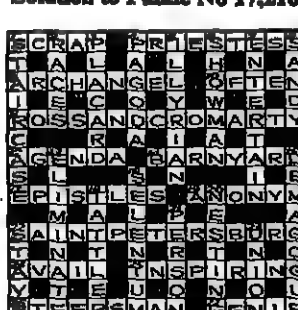
Robert Grieves

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution to Puzzle No 17,215



Solution to Puzzle No 17,210



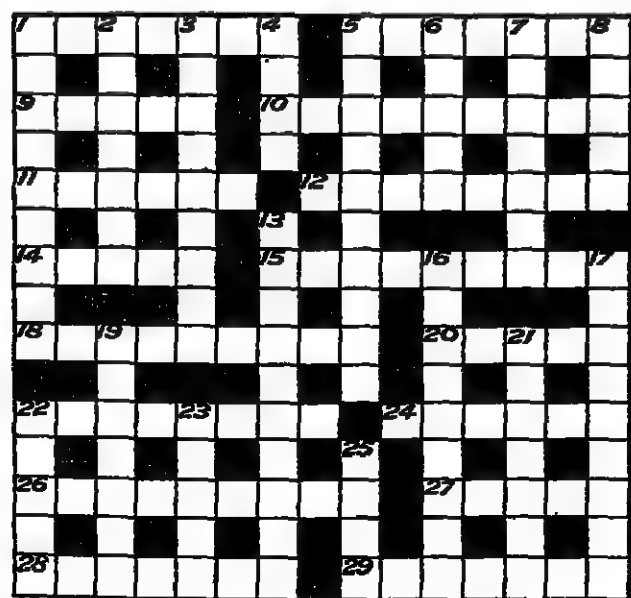
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,216

A prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solutions will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr P.A. Rawstone, 140 Ware Road, Hertford, Herts; Miss G Parker, 16 Alexandra Court, Alexandra Road, Barnstable, Devon; W.T. Shelton, 2 Penrose Close, Newbury, Berks.

Name.....

Address.....



- ACROSS**
- Current in equatorial river has disappeared (7).
 - Poles in characteristic conveyance (7).
 - In conclusion, I certainly can appear more critical (5).
 - Unhesitatingly makes love, when passionate (4,1,4).
 - Edward popped off and went round in circles (6).
 - Remarkably perhaps Leo has a friend (8).
 - Wash out and scour (5).
 - Fugitive could provide me with a helper (9).
 - Instruct unmarried people to lose weight (9).
 - Flower I have planted between two more (5).
 - Perverse, like Mary (8).
 - Two small boys — one suffers (6).
 - An art, yet a distortion under any circumstances (2,3,4).
 - Prepared to study philosophy at last (5).
 - The judge grasps nothing from that (7).
 - State with regret rejected psychiatrist (7).
- DOWN**
- Vocalist ultimately seen more than once working around Nashville (9).
 - Select an exit, say, for a bull-fighter (7).
 - Reprimand slovenly woman in case... (6-3).
 - ...she ends up in a silly way (4).
 - Cheat worker and assume control (4,2,4).
 - A prophet listened to once more (5).
 - Student of the sun accepts an honour (7).
 - Inferior races held in 20 (5).
 - Old woman of 9.5 (6,4).
 - Rams a grid in a frenzy, just before fast start (5,4).
 - New, or old, army officer in the City (4,5).
 - Family row takes a long time (7).
 - Corrupt French city, a number said (7).
 - Vessel caught by floating logs (5).
 - What's black for Jack Frost, say (5).
 - Piece of wood used in shaft (4).

Concise Crossword page 17

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, attends a service of dedication of the new ring of bells, Peterborough Cathedral, 10.55.

New exhibitions

35 Artists: Printmaking: Museum & Art Gallery, Newcastle, 10.30-5.30; 12 to 5 (ends Jan 3).

Concerts

The Elements: Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Mon to Weds 9.30 to 6. Thurs and Fri 9.30 to 8, Sat 10 to 5 (ends Dec 31).

Music

Concert by the Vienna Schubert Trio, Oundle School Great Hall, 7.45.

Concerts

Concert by the Chamber Choir and Orchestra, Weston Wind, St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 7.30.

Concerts

Concert by the Reading University Choral Society and Orchestra, St Giles', Southampton St, Reading, 7.30.

Concerts

Concert by the Reading Phoenix Chorus, The Heragon, Queens Walk, Reading, 7.30.

Concerts

Piano recital by Radoslaw Knapik, St Leonard's, Hythe, 7.30.

Concerts

Organ recital by Peter Hurford, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.

Concerts

Advent Carol Service, Winchester Cathedral, 6.30.

Concerts

Advent Procession with Carols, Durham Cathedral, 7.

Concerts

Concert by the Taverner Consort, Eye Church, Suffolk, 8.

Concerts

Concert by the University Choral Society and Orchestra, Lancaster University, 7.30.

Concerts

Organ recital by Jennifer Bate, St Peter & St Paul, Buckingham, 7.30.

Tomorrow's events

Royal engagements

Princess Alexandra attends "A Tribute to Peter Pears 1910-1986", in aid of the Alderbury Foundation Appeal, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 6.50.

Last chance to see

The Police in Portsmouth 1836-1986: Southsea Castle, Castle Esplanade, Portsmouth, 10.30 to 5.30.

Concerts

A Sheffield Showing: new road closures, 10.30 to 5.30.

Concerts

Concert by the Halle Orchestra: Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 7.30.

Concerts

Concert by University of Exeter Choral Society: University of Exeter, Exeter, 8.

Concerts

Concert by the University of Leeds Department of Music Chorus and Orchestra with Malcolm Knowles (tenor): St Bartholomew's, Armley, Leeds, 8.

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: Christian Doppler, physicist, Salzburg, 1803; Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1832; Ensign is Roy, novelist, Haverford, 1836; Gertrude Jekyll, landscape architect, London, 1843; Sir Ambrose Fleming, scientist, Lancaster, 1849.

Deaths

Thomas Wolsley, lord chancellor 1515-29, Leicester, 1530; Prince Rupert, Royalist commander in the Civil War, London, 1682; Giacomo Puccini, composer, 1858-1924; Graham Greene, world champion racing driver of 1962, 1968, near Epsom, 1975.

TOMORROW

Births: Andrea Doria, Genoese statesman and admiral, Oneglia, 1466; Andrea Palladio, architect, Padua, 1508; Sir Philip Sidney, poet soldier and courtier, Penshurst, Kent, 1554; Jonathan Swift, Dublin 1667; Mark Twain, Florida, Missouri, 1835; Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace, 1874.

Deaths

Saint Gregory of Tours, Clermont-Ferrand, 594; Oscar Wilde, Paris, 1900; Edward John Eyre, explorer in Australia, Tavistock, 1901; Ernst Lubitsch, film director, Hollywood, 1947; Wilhelm Furtwängler, conductor, Baden-Baden, 1954; Patrick Kavanagh, poet, Dublin, 1967.

Deaths

Today is Saint Andrew's Day. Tradition is that he was crucified on an x-shaped cross from which comes the flag of Scotland of which he is the patron saint; he is also patron saint of Russia.

Deaths

Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire, 1936.

Deaths

Deaths: Newspapers Limited, 1986. Printed by London Post (Printers) Limited, 21, Victoria Street, London E1 6DG. Tel: 0703 780000. Fax: 0703 780001. E-mail: londonpost@bt.com. Website: www.londonpost.co.uk. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Roads

The Midlands: M1: Contrail has been removed from junction 28 (Macclesfield) but lane restrictions remain. M1: Lane restrictions continue between junctions 4 and 5 (Bromsgrove/Droitwich). A56: Bypass construction work continues at Sanderley, delay particularly at peak times.

Wales and West: M4: Contrail has been removed from junction 14 (Thornbury). A52: Bypass construction between Cardiff and Pontcanna; contrail remains bound. A55: Contrail at Bodolwydd and lane restrictions at peak times.

The North: M1: Major repair work between junctions 31 and 32 (Workshop / Rothley) various lanes closed and lane restrictions remain. M1: Major repair work between junctions 31 and 32 (Workshop / Rothley) various lanes closed and lane restrictions remain.

South: M1: Major repair work between junctions 31 and 32 (Workshop / Rothley) various lanes closed and lane restrictions remain.

Information supplied by AA

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WEATHER

A weak warm front will be slow moving over N areas. A ridge of high pressure will persist over the S. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with rain or drizzle at times, especially in exposed W areas. Sheltered E and S areas will have some good dry periods with bright or sunny intervals developing. England and Wales will be mainly dry. Most places will start dull and cloudy with widespread fog, dense in places, especially in S and E areas. The low cloud or fog will slowly thin and break during the morning to allow hazy sunshine in many places by the afternoon. Fog will again become widespread and locally dense in the evening. It will be mild in the N with temperatures near normal in the S. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Rather cloudy. Rain at times, chiefly in the N. Temperatures mostly near normal. Night frost in places.

Today: Sun rises: 7.41 am. Sun sets: 3.57 pm. Moon rises: 4.37 am. Moon sets: 2.34 pm.

New moon: December 1.

Tomorrow: Sun rises: 7.42 am. Sun sets: 3.56 pm. Moon rises: 6.08 am. Moon sets: 2.40 pm.

New moon tomorrow.

Lighting-up time: Today: 4.27 pm to 7.12 am. Tomorrow: 4.28 pm to 7.13 am.

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Lighting-up time: Today: 4

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1292.2 (+8.2)
FT-SE 100
1636.7 (+4.2)
Bergains
26875 (28696)
USM (Datastream)
129.05 (-0.14)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.4355 (+0.0060)
W German mark
2.8308 (-0.0125)
Trade-weighted
68.1 (same)

ICH to pay
£14m for
Fulton

ICH, the international money broker, said yesterday that it is to buy Charles Fulton Asia, the money-brokerage operation in the Far East, for HK\$155 million (£14 million). The purchase will virtually complete the reconstruction of the old Charles Fulton group, which was broken up four years ago. Meanwhile, MAI has sold sections of its money-brokerage business in a management buyout worth \$25 million (£17 million). The companies involved are Euro Brokers Harlow in the US and Canada and Harlow Ueda Savage in London.

Ferranti up

Pretax profits at Ferranti, the defence goods, computer and electronics group, grew from £18.9 million to £21.9 million in the six months to September 30 as turnover increased from £279.1 million to £297.8 million. The interim dividend was raised from 0.55p to 0.6p.

Cider profit

Merrydown Wine, the cider company, yesterday announced half-year pretax profits of £615,697 (£601,542) on turnover of £5 million (£3.9 million). The company is maintaining the interim dividend at 1p.

Giltrap offer

Directors of Frank G Gates say they are consulting independent financial advisers about the unsolicited takeover offer by Giltrap Holdings. The directors, their families and their trusts hold more than half the shares.

Lists still open

The Stock Exchange is still accepting applications from member companies to register as market-makers for the forthcoming £5.6 billion privatization of British Gas. An Exchange official said that the lists would be kept open until next Friday. So far 14 companies have registered.

BET placing

BET has completed a Euroequity placing of 3.5 million shares at 42p each, so reducing borrowing by £15 million. The shares were part of a 5.9 million block held by an associate company, Iccalm.

Wico chief

Mr Patrice Migon, head of strategy and planning at Banque Indosuez, has been made chief executive of Wico, the stockbroking arm of Exco International.

Wall Street	26	Comment	27
Money Markets	26	Stock Market	27
Foreign Exchange	26	Unit Trusts	28
Commodities	26	Commodities	28
FT 30	26	USM Prices	28
Temps	27	Share Prices	29

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	1912.96 (-3.80)
Tokyo	18063.02 (+199.36)
Hong Kong	2418.75 (+64.42)
Amsterdam	264.0 (-0.2)
Stocks: AD	1379.4 (+8.5)
Frankfurt	2071.2 (-1.1)
Brussels	3922.61 (+0.89)
Paris: CAC	304.9 (+0.5)
Zurich: S&K	560.20 (+2.5)
London: FT 30	1636.7 (+4.2)
FT 100	61.76 (-0.06)
Closing prices	Page 29

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	11%
3-month interbank	11 1/4-11 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.38-5.39%
30-year bonds	10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	
London:	New York:
£: \$1.4355	£: \$1.4340
DM: £2.8308	DM: £2.8308
SwF: £1.6627	SwF: £1.6627
FF: £6.4832	FF: £6.4832
Yen: £162.00	Yen: £162.00
Indice: 116.0	Indice: 116.0
ECU: 1.4355	ECU: 1.4355

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
Grand Met.	473p (+10p)
Nash Industries	120p (+12p)
Ben Bailey	40p (+11p)
Holland Bar	50p (+10p)
Perstemon	250p (+15p)
Stobert & Pitt	82p (+12p)
Ipsco Holdings	99p (+10p)
Vaux	50p (+20p)
Dalgety	277p (+11p)
Argyll Group	517p (+50p)
Lawler	52p (+10p)
Saatchi & Saatchi	675p (+21p)
MEPC	350p (+50p)
Goode Durrant	180p (+10p)
United News	375p (+19p)
Cineprint	96p (+10p)

FALLS

Tarmac	422p (-5p)
Oxford Inst.	398p (-25p)
Yorkshire TV	180p (-11p)
Sedgwick	325p (-12p)
Prices are as at 4pm	

GOLD

London: Fixing	AM \$380.00 pm \$389.50
Gold: \$266.00-\$269.50 (\$270.50-271.00)	
New York:	Comex \$389.50-\$390.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Jan.)	pm \$14.70 bn (\$14.80)
Decatur	latest trading price

Maxwell and T&N raise stakes

Bid battle for
AE hots up

Mr Robert Maxwell's Hollis group yesterday significantly improved its chances of victory in the long-running battle for control of AE, the engineering group, with a share buying spree which took its stake to just over 20 per cent. The rival bidder, Turner & Newall, announced that it had picked up another 1.5 million AE shares, bringing acceptances of its offer to just over 11 per cent. With the near 30 per cent stake which T&N retained from the first attempt to acquire AE, it speaks for more than 40 per cent of the group. The battle is moving towards a grandstand finish on Friday when the T&N offer, which cannot be extended, must close. Hollis has the advantage that its own offer can remain open after that date. But, in the delicate poker game, it was the T&N camp which yesterday still appeared to have the winning hand.

£263m US deal
for Tarmac

Tarmac, the construction and building materials group, is making its largest acquisition so far with the planned takeover of Lone Star Industries, an American quarry and aggregates business. Initially, Tarmac is taking a 60 per cent stake in a joint venture company, buying Lone Star for £158 million with the option to buy the balance for £105 million. Lone Star, which is expected to turn in profits of £32 million next year, is based in Virginia and North and South Carolina, and has assets worth £234 million. The deal is Tarmac's second with Lone Star. Two years ago it paid £68 million for a clutch of quarry operations. The latest acquisition - following the £15 million of the Mersey Sand and Rock company of California this week - dramatically increases Tarmac's US operations. These now span six states and take in 30 stone, sand and gravel quarries with reserves of 1.5 million tonnes and a total annual production capacity of about 25 million tonnes, 82 ready-mixed concrete plant locations with more than 850 mixer trucks, 25 concrete block plants and three concrete pipe plants, together with other facilities and a cement manufacturing plant with capacity of more than a million tonnes. Sir Eric Fountain, Tarmac's chairman, said: "We like sweet deals. Our first deal with Lone Star worked out and we are sure this will too." The arrangement gives Tarmac, which will move into the driving seat straightaway, the right to mop up the remaining 40 per cent on or after January 1, 1990. The initial payment is being financed by a placing of more than 40 million new Tarmac shares at 40p with a clawback arrangement for existing shareholders on the basis of one for 7.7. Tarmac shares eased 9p to 422p on the news. Tarmac forecast a final dividend of 8.64p, up 20 per cent.

China Clays estimates
record profit for Bryant

In its offer document for Bryant Holdings, the housebuilder, published yesterday, English China Clays estimates a 20 per cent increase in pretax profits to a record £90 million for the year to September 1986. Commenting on last year's performance, Sir Alan Dalton, chairman of China Clays, said all leading parts of the business had performed well. The steps taken to restructure the group had, he believed, made the group stronger. The document focuses on the superior performance of English China Clays' housebuilding division compared to that of Bryant, and the way in which the two businesses would complement each other. English China Clays announced its £133 million bid for Bryant earlier this month, but Bryant's shares have remained above the value of the bid. Yesterday, they closed at 149p, 14 per cent above the cash alternative and 12 per cent above the share offer.

Tell Jacques: buy St Gobain

Tip across the Channel

St Gobain, the French glass and materials group, hopes to attract up to 300,000 shareholders, possibly including some in Britain, in its privatization issue launched this week by the French government. Up to 20 per cent of the issue may go to overseas holders, principally in other European countries, and the group hopes for a London quotation next year. With advice from Kleinwort Benson, veteran of the British Telecom sale and British manager for this issue, small investors are being offered special incentives, including priority application for up to ten shares (worth £330) and a one-for-ten bonus for those who retain their holdings for 18 months. But there have been no "Tell Sid" gimmicks. Lazard Freres and Banque Nationale de Paris, which are leading the sale in France, have relied on the more direct slogan, "St Gobain, j'achete." Sales are already said to be brisk and a grey market, before quotation next month, has already pitched the shares at Fr350 a share compared with the issue price of Fr310. The sale is the first of a series of privatization moves by the Gaullist French government, principally to undo the nationalization programme of its Socialist predecessor. But, unlike British Gas, St Gobain does not face a threat of renationalization after a future election. M Jean-Louis Beffa, the group's chairman, who conducted a roadshow for British institutional investors and brokers in the City yesterday, said that the French opposition would look at each company separately, and it had no plans to renationalize St Gobain because it "is profitable, international and has no strategic businesses." It is claimed to be the world's biggest building materials group and will be valued at £1.46 billion at the asking price of Fr310 per share, including non-voting certificates issued earlier this year, which will become shares. The French state will raise more than £900 million initially from selling its 85 per cent holding, and the remaining 15 per cent held by nationalized banks will be sold later. Like its great rival, Pilkington Brothers, now facing a £1.2 billion bid from BTR, St Gobain is benefiting from a marked improvement in the long-depressed European market for flat glass and construction materials and from a modernization and cost-cutting programme in France and Germany. Net profits, which fell to £40 million in 1982, are forecast to rise by two-thirds to £134 million this year, and Kleinwort Greaveson expects a further rise of a quarter in 1987. Following Pilkington, St Gobain has earmarked \$700 million for acquisitions in the United States. St Gobain is estimated to have 15 per cent of the world flat glass market.



Sir Gordon: "too often we rely on whistle-blowers"

OFT 'lacking in power'

The Office of Fair Trading should have more power to investigate restrictive practices such as price-fixing cartels, Sir Gordon Borrie, the OFT's director-general, said yesterday. Sir Gordon told a Conference of British Industry yesterday identified a "radical reappraisal" of the 30-year-old restrictive practices legislation was necessary in the Government's coming review of competition policy. He urged a simpler and tougher approach to prohibit agreements restricting or preventing competition, with some exemptions. Provided the OFT is told, restrictive agreements at present can be operated lawfully until they may be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court and judged to be against the public interest. "Too often I and my officials have had to rely on information from whistle-blowers - people who have caught wind of an agreement that adversely affects them or people who have for some reason fallen out with the other parties."

French in
Telecom
'errors'

Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Minister of Information Technology, yesterday identified Societe Generale Merchant Bank, a French state-owned banking group, as the institution which surrendered voluntarily 72,800 shares in British Telecommunications because of "errors" made when applications were submitted during the flotation. A statement from the bank confirmed the surrender, adding that the bank had told the British authorities in good time when the errors were discovered. Neither the bank nor its staff made a profit from the shares, it said. Mr Pattie said the documents were given to the Director of Public Prosecutions who saw no need for further action. Earlier this week, he said investigations into suspicious applications had led to a number of successful prosecutions. In another case, profit from the shares was voluntarily surrendered. In a further case shares were recovered after an investor failed to pay the second instalment.

LHW application still undecided

The application by LHW Futures, the controversial futures broker, for membership of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, the regulatory body for commodity and futures dealers, is still undecided. A LHW spokesman said yesterday that the question of the firm's membership has still to be resolved. No-one at the AFBF was available for comment. LHW was not included in a provisional list of AFBF members issued in August. Membership of the AFBF would give LHW the necessary authorization to carry on trading when the Financial Services Act becomes effective next year. An alternative is to seek authorization from the Securities and Investments Board. In the past it has been heavily criticized for cold calling - making unsolicited telephone calls - to private investors in order to persuade them to deal in the futures market. In March this year, LHW appointed Mr Brian Edgeley, a council member of the AFBF as managing director. Mr Edgeley resigned from the AFBF Council on taking up his appointment. He said yesterday that he considered the question of LHW's application for membership of the AFBF as sub judice. He added: "We are still awaiting a decision. We are having a dialogue about our application and other things with the AFBF." He said also that LHW "stopped cold-calling at least two years ago."

'Unfair' criticism of screen dealing

By Cliff Feltham

Criticism of the Seag electronic market system which has run into more trouble this week, was countered yesterday by Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange. Sir Nicholas, supported by his director of information services, Mr George Hayter, who has masterminded the new system, said the attacks were unfair and that it was now operating smoothly. He added that the change in the dealing system had been built into an event "of volcanic proportions and the exaggerated press comment on the initial hiccups did us quite a lot of damage abroad." "But the market has adapted with relish and enthusiasm to the new system which has worked well - so much so that the trading floor is visibly dying. The London Stock Exchange is the first major stock exchange in the world to convert itself from floor trading to an electronic and telephone market."

Mr Hayter, also speaking at a Stock Exchange conference for industry in the City, said: "I think most people have now recognized that the proof of the pudding is in the eating and the market has moved very quickly indeed to develop the opportunities of the screen based system."

Mr Hayter said that Seag had been set up after a study of the Nasdaq computerized over-the-counter market in the United States. Greenwell Montagu, the company at the centre of the Seag problems on Tuesday evening, had to trade outside the system again briefly yesterday morning because of a computer disk hitch within the company's operating system. A spokesman said the problems were unrelated to those of Tuesday when a wrongly programmed computer key sent a stream of outdated closing prices on to Seag screens.

Dollar dives against mark

By David Smith

The dollar fell yesterday, touching DM1.97, its lowest point against the mark since the early 1980s. The pound rose by 60 points to \$1.4355 but lost ground against other currencies. Sterling ended the week near to its all-time low against the mark. Yesterday it fell by more than a penny to DM2.8318. The sterling index was steady at 68.1. Dealers said that pressure on the dollar was due to continuing market doubts about the Reagan Administration after the Iranian arms affair. The pound remained vulnerable because of the trade deficit, which has totalled nearly £3 billion over the latest three months. The Bank of England acted to relieve a record shortage in the money markets yesterday. It provided a total of £1.56 billion of assistance to the markets. The daily shortage, of £1.8 billion, beat the previous record of £1.75 billion, at the end of February.

It arose from a combination of tax payments, a maturing of earlier Bank of England assistance to the markets and large end-of-week withdrawals from banks by the public. The record shortage coincided with make-up day for the banks (technically on Sunday) for the new calendar month money supply figures. A failure to have taken out yesterday's shortage could have resulted in large distortions. The Bank of England announced that it was making £400 million of government stock available to the market. The funding was in the form of tapers comprising £200 million of 10 1/2 per cent Treasury Convertible 1992, £100 million of 9 per cent Conversion 2000, and £100 million of 8 1/2 per cent Treasury 2007.

The finance houses base rate for December will be 11.5 per cent.

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STOCK MARKET

Grand Met advances 25p as 10m shares change hands

By Michael Clark

Grand Metropolitan, the drinks, hotels and food empire built by Sir Maxwell Joseph, was the toast among investors yesterday as more than £212 million added to the group's stock market value.

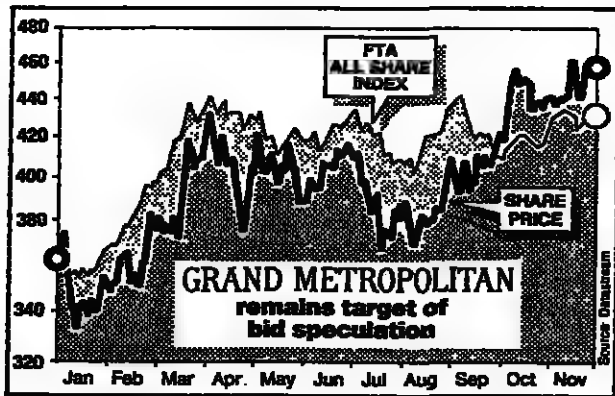
The share price leapt 25p to a new high of 482p as almost 10 million shares changed hands in hectic trading.

Dealers claimed a combination of bid speculation and heavy institutional buying ahead of a major bullish circular being published on the company by Wood Mackenzie, the broker, had been responsible for this latest flurry of activity in the shares.

There is already talk of a bid from America from either Nabisco, the food manufacturer, or R.J. Reynolds, the big cigarette company which would obviously be keen on getting its hands on a broad spread of non-tobacco businesses such as Grand Met.

Reynolds had been tipped in the past as a possible buyer of Grand Met's US cigarette business Liggett, which it disposed of for £97 million a few weeks ago.

Speculation was increased earlier this week by the news that a line of 4 million Grand Met shares (1 per cent) had



been snapped up in the market by one buyer.

Dealers are convinced that someone is trying to build up a near 5 per cent stake in the company — possibly prior to launching a full bid.

A spokesman for Grand Met said: "There is no evidence of a major build up in the shares, yet."

Yesterday's flurry of activity was sparked off in the traded options market where more than 2,000 contracts were written. There was heavy support for the January 420p and 460p series.

Wood Mackenzie is due to publish its review of the company next week ahead of the figures expected on December 9.

The publication has already attracted a great deal of attention among the institutions.

There was some selective support for blue chips, but the level of turnover remained at a low ebb. However, sentiment remained firm helped by a good showing for the Government in the latest opinion polls.

The FT share index closed

at its highest level of the day 6.2 up at 1,292.2 — a rise on the account of 18. The FT-SE 100 share index finished 4.2 up at 1,636.7.

Among leading shares there

Shares of Dalgety, the Spillers food group, could be due for a rating after a meeting this week with Chase Manhattan Securities, the broker. Mr David Doane, chairman of Dalgety, apparently put up an impressive performance, and the market reckons that the shares, up 11p at 277p, look cheap.

There was support for ICI 9p dearer at £10.85, Trusthouse Forte 2.5p to 182.5p and Glaxo 3p to 918p as more than 2 million shares were traded.

Cills drew encouragement from the steady performance of the pound on the foreign exchange scoring gains of 5/4 at the longer end. The Government broker's decision to issue an extra £400 million of three existing "taps" made little impact.

Bunzl, the paper and packaging group, was up 6p at 211p after a lunch at Phillips & Drew, the broker. Rival Kleinwort Greaveson has recently raised its forecast of profits.

After a week of speculative buying and drama in the boardroom, shares of Sealand Chartered, the international bank, came in for profit taking yesterday and finished the day 14p lower at 810p — a rise on the week of 6p.

Earlier this week, the shares jumped to 834p on confirmation that the wealthy Malaysian financier Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, who had been one

COMMENT

A testing time for the Panel's status

It was entirely predictable that the City's ways would be changed irrevocably with the advent of deregulation. Now, a month after Big Bang, it appears that the very pillars of the old regime are about to come crashing down.

On a practical level, the embodiment of the old-style City, the trading floor of the Stock Exchange, has become redundant with breath-taking rapidity. It seems destined to become little more than a tourist curiosity in a month or two.

Old-style agency trades too are fast becoming a thing of the past and institutional investors are relying on the new-found ease with which they are able to buy or sell £50 million blocks of shares instantly via their screens.

But few could have believed that so soon after Big Bang, self-regulation, the bedrock principle on which the new-style City is founded, would be facing a challenge of the most fundamental nature.

On Monday, the Court of Appeal is due to finish its deliberations over the authority of the Takeover Panel, and to determine whether it will remain a flexible arbiter of all disputes during the conduct of corporate takeover battles, or whether it will in future be subject to regular and repeated appeals over its head to the higher authority of the Courts.

Common sense suggests that it would indeed be anomalous for the Panel to be above the law of the land, able to mete out rough and ready justice subject to revision by no-one.

However, it would be equally odd to suggest that the present system cannot be integrated with the legal system in some way. Few would argue that magistrates courts are futile because the High Court and the House of Lords also exist.

But the old system has served shareholders well enough in the past, and no-one would deny that London is a cleaner and fairer place to invest than those bad old days when almost anything was fair game to those privileged to be "something in the City."

The Panel has worked admirably because the main practitioners in the City agreed to make it so. Whether they liked its decisions or not, the leading merchant bankers and brokers in the City have accepted them. The Panel's code has been subject to constant revision and improvement in the light of some times bitter experience.

The Panel's status is being tested in the courts at present because of a clash of that culture with an entirely new spirit which seems to say that club rules are all very well — so far as they go. This emerged clearly in opposing views of the two advisers in the McCormac case presently being considered by the appeal judges. Though they were both in the

same camp, one opted to accept a Panel ruling and the other, based overseas, preferred to seek satisfaction through the courts.

Whatever happens in the courts, the death or survival of the old culture is what will really determine the future conduct of takeovers and mergers.

Even before the present court case, the old values were coming under pressure. The Panel was rightly scathing over the conduct of Hill Samuel and Cazenove for their decision to take legal advice and say nothing about certain share dealings rather than consult with the Panel about whether disclosure was necessary.

If wholehearted co-operation with the Panel is no longer accepted totally, either because competition for advisory fees has become too intense, or because the newer players in the game call for a lawyer when things go against them, then the present system cannot work. In practice, we are moving towards a *de facto* system of statutory control whether or not on Monday the Court gives us *one de jure*.

Conflicts in concert

When the dust settles over the Panel's test case in the courts, there is a good deal of unfinished business over the problem which caused it all in the first place.

The Panel's executive ruled that there was no concert party between Norton Opax, which is claiming victory in the battle for the banknote printer McCormac, and the Kuwait Investment Office, one of the leading underwriters of the Norton offer. The KIO had bought shares at prices above the level of the Norton cash offer and if they had been judged to be acting in concert, this would have triggered the need to make an offer to all holders at the higher price.

The objection is that because of the performance-related underwriting fees being paid in this bid the KIO had a strong vested interest in the outcome of the battle.

The issue is a tricky one. And it looks likely to crop up with increasing frequency along with other US imported tactics in future bids. The Panel considered all the circumstances of this individual case and found in favour of Norton.

But in general terms performance-related fees do create a conflict between the passive role of the underwriter and his positive requirement to maximize performance for the benefit of his investors. Concert parties have always been a difficulty for the Panel. To prove one with certainty requires a knowledge of what is in the mind of an investor when he deals. Performance fees can only muddy the water further.

John Bell
City Editor

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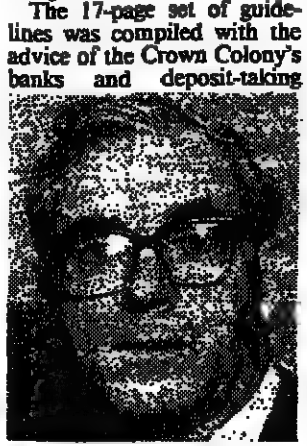
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Hong Kong ethics code for banks

Hong Kong (AP-Dow Jones) — Mr Robert Fell, the Hong Kong Banking Commissioner, yesterday put forward a model code of conduct for banks and deposit-taking companies in the Crown Colony.

The document, which has no statutory force, asks financial institutions in Hong Kong to produce standardized ethics codes for their staff, barring them from making improper loans to themselves, friends or relatives; significantly limiting the size and kind of gifts they can accept; preventing dealing on the basis of information learnt as a result of business dealings; and discouraging employees from holding outside jobs.

The 17-page set of guidelines was compiled with the advice of the Crown Colony's banks and deposit-taking companies.



Robert Fell: cracking down on 'embarrassing' practices

companies associations, and after direct consultation with some banks. It also reflects the views of the independent commission against corruption, which is responsible for prosecutions under Hong Kong's tough prevention of bribery ordinance.

Mr Fell said the imposition of a code of conduct is aimed at cutting back on gifts and other "embarrassing" practices in the financial industry.

He said many financial institutions already have comprehensive ethics codes for staff, some of them stiffer than what the government's new proposals recommend. But he said those which have not laid down such rules will be asked to formulate a code based on a model prepared by the Commissioner's office and submit their versions to the government for approval.

Under the codes, bank or deposit-taking company employees who accept gifts, take loans or trade on information they learn in their jobs will be asked to disclose those activities.

Spokesmen for the industry welcomed the guidelines.

TEMPUS

ECC the likely victor but not at this price

At last those terribly nice people from the West Country are doing something opportunistic and aggressive. English China Clay's aspirations to move into the housebuilders' "big six" shows the group's keenness to seize opportunities to enhance its business.

In the past, ECC dabbled in housebuilding, selling about 400 homes a year. However, with the purchase in 1985 of E.H. Bradley the business doubled. The management's appetite was whetted and soon became aware of such delights as economies of scale and geographical spread.

The attractions of Bryant Holdings are manifest. It has a large land bank, a fair proportion of which is in the prosperous South-east. It has a good reputation in the industry, an experienced management and a quality product. Bryant's operations dovetail with ECC's in style and geographical position while its profits performance suggests there is room for improvement.

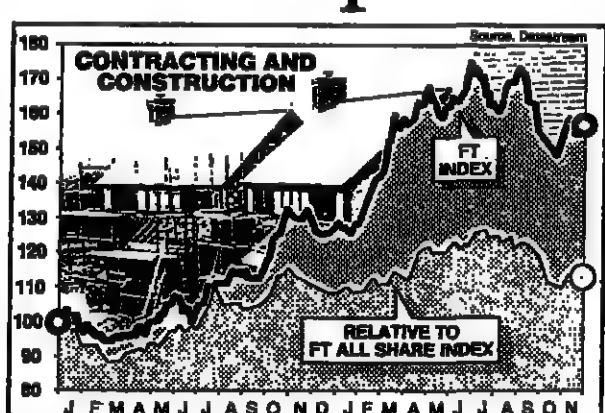
In the past, Bryant was dominated by the founding family. The commitment is still there in the shape of Chris Bryant who is chairman and managing director. Directors' and family shareholdings account for about 20 per cent of the equity.

Until a few years ago it was widely believed the family would sell out in due course since there were no obvious heirs. However, since then, the management team has been revitalized.

If Bryant bases its defence on its 8,000-plus land bank, worth £72 million on a historic cost basis, it will have a problem.

On the other hand, at the current value of the bid, ECC is paying about £17,000 a plot. Based on an average selling price of £50,000, this appears to be no more than a normal market price. The property and construction interests are, therefore, thrown in for virtually nothing. However, since Bryant no longer reveals the profitability of its divisions, it is hard to evaluate these businesses independently.

If ECC were to pay 150p a share, this would seem to be a fair price. It is, for instance, 66 per cent higher than last month's rights price of 90p. And — even if they were wanted — most of the obvious white knights are busy.



Merrydown Wine

At first sight it is tempting to regard Merrydown Wine's half-year performance as a trifle disappointing. Profits before tax rose by only £14,000.

However, the figures disguise an increase of 26 per cent in total sales and a growth of more than 20 per cent in cider sales.

The cider result contrasts markedly with overall growth for the industry of only 1.5 per cent. Moreover, the Merrydown growth is spread more evenly this year, with the company making up lost ground in Scotland.

Interest charges have taken their toll on the profits figure. Expenditure last year on plant and machinery means interest received of £18,590 is converted into an interest charge of £33,086.

Increased penetration of the cider market has been achieved with substantial expenditure on advertising. Advertising costs for this year should be about £150,000, higher. But with increasing penetration it is likely that the advertising expenditure will not be increased much in the next financial year.

Analysts are talking about full-year figures of between £1.3 and £1.4 million, producing earnings of about 22p a share. With the shares falling 2p on the day to 358p this provides a p/e ratio of 16. A medium-term buy for growth.

Ferranti

The City has not been impressed by Ferranti's interim results, despite the company's continued optimistic noises about a record order book of £770 million and strong profit growth apart from the woeful semi-conductor sector.

In fact, Ferranti says that operating profits, excluding semi-conductors, increased by 19 per cent in the first half. Yet in overall terms they were up by just £700,000 at £22.4 million. The pretax figure, which rose by £3 million to £21.9 million, glimmers by comparison but only because of a £2 million surplus on the sale of a site at Oldham and a reduced finance bill.

The interim report has little to say beyond what the chairman, Mr Basil de Ferranti, told shareholders at the annual meeting two months ago, which suggests that the company is just treading water. The defence systems division continues to fare well, and it will provide an insurance against disaster, while some of the smaller companies are also doing better than last year.

However, it is difficult to see any other divisions providing a springboard for significant growth in the near future. By Ferranti's own admission, the world semi-conductor market is unlikely to improve before mid-1987, while a recent cut in the company's computer prices suggests another struggle for market share.

The share's main crutch earlier this year — a possible bid — was kicked away when the Government vetoed the GEC takeover bid for Plessey and an approach looks unlikely, given the potential political problems and the dull profits outlook.

Full-year pretax forecasts are being pegged at £45 million which puts the shares, 1p down at 97p, on a premium p/e ratio of 13.8. Although they have dropped 37 per cent from their year's high, they cannot yet be put on the bargain-hunter's list.

Already there is talk of pretax profits rising from £158 million to between £215 million and £220 million.



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A ride on the style road to profits

MOTORS

Frank Damian is a stylist. He gave up tartan trousers, wholemeal pasta, and his pigtail a couple of years ago, when only the trendiest of the trendy realized they were on the way out. Since then he has acquired some of the more important designer accoutrements: permanent stubble, a 1950s civil service filing cabinet as a drinks cupboard and an old car with sleek lines.

What, you may ask, is so madly stylish about all that? Anyone with the money and the inclination to ape the fashion magazine models slavishly could do it. But Mr Damian's point about his smooth-styled 1½-ton Daimler V8 is that it does not work, and he doesn't care that it does not work.

It looks good, especially the walnut dashboard with its aero-plane panel of switches and dials. It even smells good, thanks to the quality of the leather upholstery. And the light activated by opening the glove compartment is a pleasing shade of police blue. Only when the glove-compartment light falls does Mr Damian say he will think of throwing away his driving gloves.

But perhaps the nearest point of style is that the car is actually worth more than the £500 it cost a year and a half ago. The Daimler 250 2½-litre saloon is a classic car (for insurance purposes anything

over 10 years old is a classic) and is one of a select minority which appreciates in value faster than it rusts.

According to a survey of classic car prices published in next month's *Classic Car* magazine this type of Daimler is worth £775, even if it is in "condition C." Cars in condition C need a full rebuild.



Beetle: future value £10,000?

although it is possible, as the survey points out, that the vehicles may still be in use.

Most cars on the road are in Condition B — roadworthy but scruffy to a greater or lesser degree. Condition A cars are free from faults. They have immaculate chrome, gleaming coachwork, and their owners do not tremble at the thought of the annual vehicle test.

As you might expect from the wide definition of a classic car you do not have to be spectacularly

rich to own one, although spare cash is essential for maintenance and spare time is required for the tender loving care which older cars need.

Interest in classic cars "spreads right across the social spectrum" according to Tony Dron, editor of *Classic Car* magazine. "At the lower end of the scale cars can cost a few hundred pounds, but at the top of the spectrum it is definitely a rich man's hobby. A Ferrari GTO can cost up to \$1 million."

Widespread interest from enthusiasts naturally keeps prices rising, but choosing a car as an investment is not easy. Mr Dron believes that the would-be collector-investor should go for the car in good condition rather than look for an inferior example and hope to do restoration work.

Yet returns for this type of investment vary immensely according to the type of car. Restoring a Morris Minor, for example, will possibly not increase the market value of the car sufficiently to cover the cost. Spending a fifth of a million on the right model of Ferrari, however, might well yield a profit.

Another tip is to join one of the collectors' clubs, especially if you are interested in an older model where spares and advice are in short supply. Difficulties can thus be avoided rather than negotiated.

Most collectors' clubs will help with other running costs, such as insurance. Several insurance com-

panies offer special policies for classic cars.

The premiums are normally slightly lower if the driver can assure the company that mileage will be limited to a few thousand a year, and that the car will be garaged. If, however, one of these conditions is not met, it may be better to look for a normal policy.

If you are a car enthusiast your decision to buy will be based simply on the car you like the look and feel of best. Even if the car

Pricing a classic car requires a feel for the market

fails to appreciate in value as rapidly as you might wish, you should not be so disappointed. The alternative method of taking the profit from your investment is to drive and use your car, and enjoy doing so.

Says Mr Dron: "If you don't fall in love before you buy, I think it's easy to come a cropper."

Inevitably the older, grander end of the market tends to do well. The big prestige cars of yesteryear have done well. A 1939 Bentley Continental in good condition will have appreciated from £8,522 then to £30,000 now. An Aston Martin has risen from £3,755 in 1963 to around £12,000 now,

while the Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud S2 will change hands for £17,500 now as opposed to just over £6,000 in 1966.

Compiling the price guide was not easy, according to its author, Lindsay Porter. He spent seven years at the task, and admits that the process of compilation is rather like painting the Forth Bridge: the moment he has finished it is time to start again at the beginning.

The method of calculation cannot be exact, especially for models where the market is thin (typically when there are few cars around from which to distil a reliable average), but the guide's prices are ascertained "using both art and science" says Mr Porter. "Pricing a classic car requires both a knowledge of the market — both in auction and among collectors — and a feel for that market."

And the classics of tomorrow? Mr Porter predicts that E-type Jaguars will breach the £30,000 level, that soft-top Volkswagen Beetles will change hands at £10,000 and more, and that the MGTX will have a value of £20,000-plus.

"But that's assuming that things continue as they are," he adds, "which is probably a very silly assumption."

Martin Baker



Jaguar's already legendary E-type: likely to exceed £30,000



S2 Bentley Continental: from £8,522 in 1959 to £30,000 now



Aston Martin: James Bond associations caught public imagination

Upset on insurance company switch

A full-scale row is in the making between a group of Imperial Life policyholders and the insurance company itself, writes Peter Garsland.

The detail is technical but the essence of the problem lies in a letter sent to Imperial's policyholders earlier this month by its UK chief executive, Roger Wain.

Mr Wain told policyholders that, subject to the approval of certain supervisory bodies both in the UK, and in Canada (where Imperial has its head office), it was proposed to transfer Imperial's life assurance to Trident Life, a company bought by Imperial in 1985.

Mr Wain assured policyholders that the transfer of business would enable administrative economies to be made and was in the interests of policyholders.

Enter Richard Knox-Johnston, an Imperial Life policyholder who was himself at one time a senior executive with Imperial. Mr Knox-Johnston and others have formed the Imperial Life Policyholders Committee because, they say, they are worried that the move by Imperial may not be in the interests of the 180,000 affected policyholders.

They are also critical that it has been presented as a fait accompli, without any consultation.

Mr Knox-Johnston argues that the many people who took

out insurance policies with Imperial did so in the knowledge that it was a long-established company with a solid reputation, a steady bonus performance and a high free-assets ratio.

He says: "They deserve the right to reassess themselves that Trident Life can offer the prospect of the same financial security."

Mr Knox-Johnston also contends that the notice sent to policyholders gave no opportunity for questioning the decision and was of such a technical nature that a layman would be unlikely to understand the full implications.

Mr Wain says he was surprised to hear of the formation of an action group, not least because his letter to policyholders invited them to get in touch with Imperial if they had any questions about the proposals or if they wanted them explained in more detail.

Mr Wain sticks to his view that combining the operations of Imperial and Trident will be to the advantage of policyholders of both companies. In support of this view, Mr Wain says that the chairman of what will become Imperial Trident Life will be Claude Bruneau, who is chairman of Imperial Life of Canada.

The final decision will probably rest not with either Mr Wain or Mr Knox-Johnston but will be made at a High Court hearing on December 8.

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EQUITIES

Beware of putting your trust only in units...

One of the golden rules of equity investment is not to put all your eggs in one basket. But, for anyone with limited resources, establishing a well-balanced portfolio of realistically sized holdings is out of the question.

To obtain a good spread of risk, therefore, individuals with modest means are usually advised to steer clear of direct equity investment and to opt instead for a unit trust or investment trust.

This is because both these investment vehicles offer the individual the chance to acquire a tax-efficient interest in a lot of companies through the purchase of a single holding. And the investor benefits from the fact that the trust portfolios are professionally managed by investment experts.

A further attraction of unit and investment trusts is that there are plenty to choose from — almost 1,000 of the former and around 200 of the latter — some of which are invested in UK company stock, others which specialise in overseas markets.

So, with either type of trust, in return for an initial investment of a few hundred pounds, or in some instances through a regular savings scheme, the investor has access to a wide range of industries and currencies.

Despite these similarities, however, there are several important differences between a unit trust and an investment trust. Not least, is the fact that an investment trust is not legally a trust at all. It is a joint

stock limited liability company.

As such, it has a fixed amount of issued share capital, and this can only be changed with the agreement of the shareholders, and in some situations, with the approval of the court. This is why they are sometimes described as "closed-end trusts".

So, anyone who buys a holding in an investment trust becomes a shareholder in that company. Sometimes, different classes of shares are offered which carry various powers and privileges relating, for example, to dividend en-

Without the same direct control

titlement and the investor's right to vote on decisions affecting the company.

The directors of an investment-trust company, for instance, are appointed by the shareholders and are accountable to them. And, apart from having control over the issue of additional share capital, it is the shareholders who must approve any proposed change in the company's borrowing limits.

Anyone investing in a unit trust is buying a holding in a legal trust, and does not have the same direct control over the running of that trust.

Instead of being governed by company legislation, an authorised unit trust comes under the control of the Department of Trade, and it is the DTI which must approve the trust deed.

Under this deed of trust, a trustee, usually a bank or insurance company, is appointed, and it is the task of the trustee to hold the securities of the trust, to issue share certificates and pay any dividends, and to keep a register of unit holders. The management company which is responsible for all the investment decisions is totally separate from the trustee.

Another major difference between a unit trust and an investment trust is that whereas the latter can offer different classes of shares, a unit trust can issue only equity units. But, unlike an investment trust which has a fixed amount of share capital, the number of units in a trust is a moveable feast, and can be increased or decreased according to the flow of money in and out of the fund.

Consequently, the market for a unit trust is created by the fund manager, who in accordance with the regulations laid down by the DTI, fixes both the buying and the selling price of units.

To determine the price of the units, the manager takes

into account not only the net value of the assets held by the trust, but the normal costs incurred when buying stocks and shares. The purchase price given to the units also includes an initial management charge and a rounding up or down figure. The end result is what is known as the "bid/offer spread".

The market for investment trusts on the other hand, is made on the Stock Exchange. And though the net asset value of each ordinary share has an effect on the price of the shares, the actual price rises and falls in line with supply and demand.

Typically, investment trusts are sold at a discount, which means that the price is lower than the asset value of the company. This is a bit like a sale bargain, in that for a lower outlay, the investor has the benefit of a greater value of assets working for him. Consequently, anyone investing in the same portfolio of investments either directly, or through a unit trust, would get a lower level of income than would be available through an investment trust.

In addition to the quoted price of the investment trust shares, of course, investors also have to pay the normal dealing costs incurred through share purchase, which are itemized on the contract note.

There are two other big differences between investment trusts and unit trusts. The one, is that investment trusts can borrow money whereas unit trusts cannot; the other is that subject to the approval of the DTI and the trustee, a unit trust can readily advertise.

Investment trust companies, however, cannot promote their shares unless they print a full prospectus outlining the reason for the issue of additional shares.

Clearly, this is an expensive exercise, and rarely used. On a positive note, however, by not spending a great deal of money on advertising, investment trusts are able to keep their management expenses down, usually, to a significantly lower level than those of unit trusts.

Despite this lower profile, investment trusts will un-

In the long term investments are best

doubtedly become more widely known next year when Personal Equity Plans are introduced. Like unit trusts, they will be eligible for inclusion in a Personal Equity Plan portfolio.

For investors, of course, of great importance, is how the performance of these two types of collective investment compare.

In fact, over the short term, unit trusts tend to lead. Over the long term, however, investment trusts are frequently way ahead.

Amanda Pardoe

Consider carefully before you move savings abroad

The spectre of exchange controls is beginning to haunt many a UK investor, despite assurances from the Shadow Chancellor, Roy Hattersley, that if Labour is voted into office at the next general election, he will seek to clip only the wings of the institutional investors, pension funds in particular.

So individual investors would not be prevented from sending their money overseas.

But this has not put people's minds at rest, and the offshore-fund industry could well prove the beneficiary of the potential actions of a Labour administration.

You do not have to save up offshore funds for such an occasion as this, of course. They have always been available as an alternative to the onshore authorized unit trusts, but much of their appeal lies in offering a range of investment opportunities that unit trusts are not yet allowed to match.

That includes currency diversification, property (as opposed to property shares) and commodities. Of course, the heyday for offshore funds' attraction for UK investors came and went in the brief but glorious period of the roll-up currency fund. These had the effect of turning taxable income into capital gain, and were therefore particularly good news for higher-rate taxpayers.

Money poured into them, and at the height of its popularity, the biggest of the funds, Rothschild Old Court fund, had a billion pounds under management — more than even the biggest unit trust.

That was before the Inland Revenue changed the rules. The tax treatment for offshore funds is now no longer uniform — there are two distinct categories and UK investors must check which type a fund is before investing any money, otherwise they may get a nasty shock when the tax bill arrives.

The tax treatment of roll-up funds is savage: all the proceeds are taxed as income in the hands of a UK investor. To avoid this, offshore funds have to apply for distributor status, which ensures that investors are liable to income tax only on any deposit interest or dividends, not on the capital gain.

Choppy going for offshore investors

FUNDS

The main requirement for being granted distributor status is easy enough to comply with, being that the fund distributes to holders at least 85 per cent of the income of the fund.

That does not stop groups from offering an automatic reinvestment facility for investors who do not actually want to receive any income. But you will still be taxed as if you had received it.

The Netherlands-based Robeco group is a case in point. The group initially expected no problem in obtaining distributor status, as the funds run by the group already distributed all their income. Under Dutch law they had to otherwise they would be taxed at a rate of 50 per cent in the Netherlands.

But under the status legislation some additional technical requirements affect a fund's portfolio holdings. The Inland Revenue does not distinguish between portfolio holdings

and subsidiary holdings, and because Robeco is a combination of a management company and a fund, there was a technical breach of the rules.

Robeco eventually succeeded in having the rules amended, which means the Rolinco fund has applied for distributor status for the year ending on August 31, 1986. But for various reasons, the Robeco fund cannot apply until January 1988 for distributor status for the calendar year 1987. The group is confident that both funds will be granted the status.

Unfortunately, long-standing UK investors in either fund will still have to pay income tax on the proceeds when they sell because the funds will not have had distributor status for the whole period since the legislation was introduced in 1984.

The Robeco group is trying to persuade the Revenue to agree to the introduction of an apportionment mechanism which would limit an investor's liability to income tax on capital gains to the period when the fund did not have distributor status, and not to the entire period of investment.

Until progress is made on this, the standard advice to investors with this problem is to "bed and breakfast" their holdings. But Louis Verhay, of the Robeco group, has a different view. He advises investors to hold on to their shares, for two reasons.

First, the group may be successful in its appeal for an apportionment mechanism. And, because if you sell now and buy back, you have an immediate tax liability that you have to pay either from part of the proceeds of selling or from money held on deposit. In effect you are foregoing future income or capital gains.

Robeco has calculated that there is little to choose between this loss, and your future liability to income tax on the eventual encashment of your holdings discounted back to the present.

Anyone who invests in Rolinco now, or indeed who invested between August 31, 1983, and August 31, 1986, has no need to worry about any of this. If you want to invest in Robeco, hold off until the beginning of 1987.

Pauline Skypala



Analyst Ted Sellers: From now on the investment-trust sector will be corporate-activity led

...and what the future holds

Alexander Laine & Cruickshank (ALC) published the 60th edition of its *Investment Trust Yearbook* this week, writes Peter Gartland. Among ALC's comments and predictions are that there are still too many generalist trusts for which there is little demand, many non-executive directors of investment trusts will come under increasing pressure from institutional shareholders to resign because they are so out of touch with events and there will be a higher level of overseas interest in investment trusts, particularly from the US and Japan.

But it is the implications of more corporate activity in the investment trust sector that excites ALC most in the latest edition of the valuable reference work. Says ALC's analyst,

Ted Sellers: "It is only facing reality to state that from now on the investment-trust sector will be corporate-activity led."

Not that takeovers and acquisitions are necessarily seen as a bad thing. ALC argues that it has been to a large extent the threat of aggressive corporate activity which has wonderfully concentrated the minds of investment-trust managers in the last five years and has consequently produced a higher level of performance expectation. Without this pressure, investment trust managers might well again sink back into lethargy, it is argued.

In a juicy sideswipe at what it calls the "old world establishment" ALC says corporate activity had been held back in the investment-trust sector

because of interconnecting relationships and directorships between the trusts and their institutional shareholders, and by lack of desire or will to upset the profitable apple cart.

On the all-important subject of performance, ALC concludes that this has been extremely good compared to unit trusts. Specifically, it lists a total five investment trusts whose share price has improved by at least 400 per cent since 25 September 1981: Dana, Jove, F&C Eurotrust, Lowland and M&G Second Deal Trust.

The star performer, however, with a share price increase of 1018 per cent over the last five years, is Cambrian & General, one of whose directors until recently was the now-disgraced American arbitrator, Ivan Boesky.



Advice to the unwary abroad in the City, or

HOW A YOUNG UPWARDLY MOBILE BEE FELL FOUL OF A DASTARDLY VEGETABLE PLOT.

It had been the very essence of an English summer's day. Buckets of rain, a skittering of sleet, massed ranks of cloud. But now the rain had stopped. A segment of sun peeped through. The lawn sparkled like a jeweller's window.

A swarm of pin-striped bees was sweeping across the garden. They had turned the hive into a profitable business. "Money from honey" was their slogan. But one wily worker bee knew better than the rest.

Perched on a branch high above the flower beds, he mocked their giant hollyhocks, scorned their cornflowers, chuckled at their honeysuckle. For, lurking by the cold frame at the head of the garden were the biggest flowers he'd ever seen. Great white globes, eight or nine inches across. Like an actor in a bee movie, he tugged up his collar and glanced around shiftily. Good: the coast was clear.



On whirring wings, he divebombed the first enormous flower head. He sniffed the air: there was no bouquet. He rummaged for the nectar, delved deep for the pollen. But the cauliflower, in spite of its name, had none.

The City, too, has its quota of people with harebrained

schemes for extracting uranium from Arctic sleet or honey from cauliflowers. Naturally, they all come with promises of positively gargantuan returns. But our shrewd investor will always opt for a scheme that is much more soundly based. With their wealth of experience and the resources of Mercury Warburg Investment Management, Mercury can supply you with all the help and advice you need.



For details of our ten unit trusts, please write to: The Client Services Director, Mercury Fund Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4DQ, (01-280 2800) or contact your usual financial adviser.

MERCURY UNIT TRUSTS
Investment by Mercury Warburg Investment Management Ltd.

British Gas plc

Share Offer

by

N M Rothschild & Sons Limited

on behalf of

The Secretary of State for Energy

Under offers in the United Kingdom,

the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe

4,025,500,000 Ordinary Shares are to be sold

at 135p per share payable in instalments of 50p now,

45p on 9th June, 1987 and 40p on 19th April, 1988.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital, issued and to be issued, of the Company, to be admitted to the Official List. The following information should be read in conjunction with the full text of the Listing Particulars dated 21st November, 1986 relating to British Gas plc, copies of which are available at British Gas showrooms, clearing bank branches and post offices. You are advised to read the Listing Particulars before returning your application form.

APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Applications

Applications must be received by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986 (or before close of business on Tuesday, 2nd December, 1986, if the form is taken by hand to any U.K. branch of National Westminster Bank PLC, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank Limited). Photocopies of application forms will not be accepted in any circumstances. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(b) Allocation of shares

The basis of allocation of the shares is expected to be announced by Monday, 8th December, 1986.

If you are successful, in whole or in part, you will be sent a temporary document of title (a letter of acceptance) for the shares allocated to you.

If there is heavy demand for the shares, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for or, in some cases, none at all.

If your application is not accepted or is only accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) all money paid on application or a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid on application.

(c) Dealings

It is expected that dealings on The Stock Exchange will commence at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 8th December, 1986. Letters of acceptance are expected to be sent to successful applicants on Monday, 15th December, 1986. Applicants who deal before receipt of a letter of acceptance will do so at their own risk. You should also note that some dealers in shares may insist on seeing your letter of acceptance before purchasing your shares.

You will not be liable for stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax on your application for shares. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will be liable to pay any stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax.

(d) Further instalments

You will be sent reminders in advance of the dates when the second and third instalments become payable. At the time the reminder is sent for the second instalment (due by 9th June, 1987) you will also be sent an Interim Certificate to replace the letter of acceptance despatched following the Offer. After you have paid your final instalment (due by 19th April, 1988) you will be sent your final share certificate. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

SPECIAL INCENTIVES

If you apply for shares in the Offer, you may be eligible to receive from the Government, free of charge, EITHER vouchers for use against gas bills from British Gas OR a share bonus. The special incentives are only available if you buy shares in the Offer and not if they are bought subsequently.

(a) Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for these special incentives, you must be an individual investing solely for your own benefit (or investing jointly with not more than three other individuals, solely for the benefit of one or more of you). Applications made by individuals on behalf of children may also qualify for the special incentives. Companies, partnerships, firms, trusts, associations and clubs are not eligible for these special incentives but they may apply as nominees for eligible individuals.

(b) Bill vouchers

For every whole multiple of 100 shares you buy in the Offer and hold continuously until certain qualifying dates, you can receive £10 worth of vouchers (up to a maximum entitlement of £250). The way in which the voucher scheme will work is illustrated in the table below:

Number of shares held continuously	ENTITLEMENT TO VOUCHERS ON THE QUALIFYING DATES						Total
	30th June 1987	31st Dec 1987	30th June 1988	31st Dec 1988	30th June 1989	31st Dec 1989	
100	£10	—	—	—	—	—	£10
200	£20	—	—	—	—	—	£20
300	£30	—	—	—	—	—	£30
400	£40	—	—	—	—	—	£40
500	£40	£10	—	—	—	—	£50
600	£40	£20	—	—	—	—	£60
700	£40	£30	—	—	—	—	£70
800	£40	£40	—	—	—	—	£80
900	£40	£40	£10	—	—	—	£90
1,000	£40	£40	£20	—	—	—	£100
1,500	£40	£40	£40	£30	—	—	£150
2,000	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	—	£200
2,500 or more	£40	£40	£40	£40	£40	£50	£250

EXAMPLE: If you receive 500 shares in the Offer you will be entitled to a voucher of £40 on 30th June, 1987 and a voucher of £10 on 31st December, 1987, provided you hold the shares until 31st December, 1987. If you only hold the shares until, say, November 1987, you will only be entitled to a voucher of £40.

On each qualifying date you will be entitled to one voucher worth £10 for every whole multiple of 100 shares bought in the Offer and held continuously until then, less the value of the vouchers already received. However, the maximum voucher value on any qualifying date will be £40 (£50 on the last qualifying date).

The voucher will be posted to you about two weeks after each qualifying date.

Your vouchers can be used when making any payment due to British Gas, if that payment includes charges for gas supplied (or standing charges) for your use or benefit in your home. Details of these arrangements will be issued with the vouchers.

(c) Share bonus

You will be entitled to one additional share for every ten shares which you buy in the Offer and continue to hold up to and including 31st December, 1989. The maximum number of additional shares you can receive is 500. There will be no right to receive fractions of shares.

The additional shares will be transferred to you as soon as reasonably practicable after 31st December, 1989 (together with all rights attaching to those shares at the date of transfer). Any stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax on or in respect of the transfer will be met by the Government.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Acceptance of applications will be conditional on (i) the Ordinary Shares, issued and to be issued, being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange not later than 31st December, 1986, and (ii) the provisions relating to termination of the U.K. Underwriting Agreement referred to in Part G of Section VII of the full Prospectus dated 21st November, 1986, comprising the listing particulars relating to British Gas plc (the "Prospectus") not being implemented. Application money will be returned (without interest) if either of these conditions is not satisfied and, in the meantime, if presented for payment, will be held by a receiving bank in a separate account. Rights are reserved for the Secretary of State and his agents to present for payment and otherwise process all cheques and bankers' drafts received and to have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, such cheques, bankers' drafts and the processing thereof. The right is also reserved to treat as valid any application not in all respects completed in accordance with the instructions accompanying the relevant application form.

2. Acceptance of an application by an eligible investor who has elected for the share bonus or the bill vouchers will entitle that investor to the share bonus or bill vouchers (as the case may be) on the terms, and subject to the conditions, set out in Section VII of the Prospectus.

3. A valid application made by or on behalf of a person who is eligible for the Customer Share Scheme on a gross customer application form delivered to that person by or on behalf of the British Gas Share Information Office will, subject to these terms and conditions, be accepted to the extent described in paragraph 2(b) of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus.

4. By completing and delivering an application form, you:

(a) offer to purchase from the Secretary of State the number of Ordinary Shares specified in your application form (or such smaller number for which the application is accepted) on the terms of, and subject to, the conditions set out in, the Prospectus and the Interim Agreement (read, in the course, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company) and agree to become a party to and be bound by all relevant provisions of the Interim Agreement;

(b) as a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State which will become binding on despatch to or receipt by a receiving bank of your application and in consideration of the Secretary of State agreeing that he will not, prior to 1st January, 1987 offer any of the Ordinary Shares to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus;

(i) agree that your application cannot be revoked prior to 1st January, 1987; and

(ii) warrant that your remittance will be honoured on first presentation and agree that any letter of acceptance and any money returnable may be held pending clearance of your payment;

(c) if you complete a box to apply for bill vouchers or the share bonus, thereby:

(i) warrant that you are eligible to do so in accordance with the provisions set out in Part A of Section VIII of the Prospectus;

(ii) agree that, if you elect for bill vouchers, you will comply with the conditions of use thereof set out in paragraph 1(b) of Part B of Section VIII of the Prospectus; and

(iii) agree that, if you complete both boxes, you will be deemed to have elected for the share bonus only;

(d) if you make an application under the Customer Share Scheme, thereby warrant that:

(i) you, or if you are a nominee, all persons for whose benefit the application is made, are eligible for the Customer Share Scheme in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 2(a) of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus; and

(ii) so far as you are aware, no other application has been made under the Customer Share Scheme in respect of the same securities offered or agreed to be offered by you or by any other person;

(e) declare that you are not a U.S. or Canadian person and you are not applying on behalf of any such person, "U.S. or Canadian person" having the meaning set out in paragraph 4 of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus;

(f) agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under this Offer shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England;

(g) warrant that:

(i) if this application is made for your own benefit, no other application is being made for your benefit by you or by anyone applying as your agent or so far as you are aware, by any other person;

(ii) if the application is made by you as agent for or for the benefit of another person, no other application is being made for that person's benefit by you or, so far as you are aware, by that person or by any other person; and

(iii) if you sign the application form as agent for someone else, you have due authority to do so on behalf of that other person;

(h) agree that, in respect of those Ordinary Shares for which your application has been received and processed and is not rejected, acceptance of your application shall be constituted, at the election of the Secretary of State, either (i) by notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case such acceptance shall be on that basis) or (ii) by notification of acceptance thereof to the relevant receiving bank;

(i) authorise the relevant receiving bank and the Custodian Bank to send a letter of acceptance for the number of Ordinary Shares for which your application is accepted and/or a cheque for any money returnable by post at your risk to the address of the person (or the first-named person) named in the application form and to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of holders of interim rights in respect of such Ordinary Shares the entitlement to which has not been effectively renounced and (hereafter to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Ordinary Shares the entitlement to which is evidenced by Interim Certificates and the right to which has not been effectively renounced; and in these terms and conditions references to rights being effectively renounced mean the renouncement(s) being registered by a receiving bank in relation to such rights;

(j) agree that all documents in connection with the share bonus or bill voucher arrangements may be sent by post at your risk to the person (or, in the case of joint applicants, the first person) named in the application form to his or her address set out therein or such other address as may from time to time appear in the register of holders of interim rights or the register of members of the Company against the name of such person;

(k) agree that time of payment by you shall be of the essence of each contract constituted by acceptance of your application and undertake to pay the second instalment by, and for value not later than, 3 p.m. on 9th June, 1987 and the final instalment by, and for value not later than, 3 p.m. on 19th April, 1988 for the Ordinary Shares in respect of which your application is accepted and the right to which has not been effectively renounced or transferred in accordance with the Interim Agreement by you prior to the relevant time and date;

(l) agree that, without prejudice to any other rights to which you may be entitled, you will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance of your application; and

(m) confirm that, in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to British Gas or the Offer other than information and representations contained in the Prospectus or in the mini prospectus published in connection with the Offer taken together with the Prospectus (the "prospectuses") and accordingly you agree that no person responsible for the prospectuses shall have any liability for any such information or representation other than as aforesaid.

No person receiving this application form in any territory other than the U.K., the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat it as constituting an invitation to him or her, nor should he or she in any event use it, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation could lawfully be made to him or her without compliance with any unfulfilled registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the U.K., the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man receiving this application form and wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself or herself as to full observance of the laws of the relevant territory and to pay any transfer or other taxes requiring to be paid in such territory in respect of the shares acquired by him or her under this Offer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM BY POST (OR DELIVER IT BY HAND) TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1986 at the appropriate address below according to the first letter of your surname (or corporate name) inserted in Box 1.

A to Cg Bank of Scotland
New Issues Department,
Apco House,
9 Haddington Place,
Edinburgh EH7 4AL
or, by hand only, to
38 Threadneedle Street,
London EC2.

Ch to F Barclays Bank PLC
New Issues,
P.O. Box 123,
Fleetway House,
25 Farringdon Street,
London EC4A 4HD.

G to J Lloyds Bank Plc
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea, Worthing,
West Sussex BN12 6DA
or, by hand only, to
Registrar's Department,
11 Bishopsgate,
London EC2.

K to M Midland Bank plc
Stock Exchange Services
Department,
Mariner House,
Peeps Street,
London EC3N 4DA.

N to Sg National Westminster
Bank PLC
New Issues Department,
P.O. Box 79,
2 Princes Street,
London EC2P 2BD.

Sk to Z The Royal Bank of
Scotland plc
Registrar's Department,
P.O. Box 435,
8 Bankhead Crossway North,
Edinburgh EH11 4BR
or, by hand only, to
New Issues Department,
24 Lombard Street,
London EC3.

USE FIRST CLASS POST AND ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY

OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND TO
ARRIVE BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON
TUESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1986
at any U.K. branch of National Westminster Bank PLC,
Bank of Scotland, or Ulster Bank Limited.

Additional receiving centres are open for deliveries by hand until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986. These are set out on the back of the application form in the mini prospectus and in the Listing Particulars.

GUIDE ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

If you wish to apply under the Customer Share Scheme, you must complete the GREEN FORM sent to you by the British Gas Share Information Office. Or, if you have received a personalised ORANGE FORM, you should complete that form. Otherwise, please use the APPLICATION FORM below. ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON.

Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use block capitals).

Applications must not be made by anyone under 18, but a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 may apply for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should put your own name in Box 1, and after your surname write "A/C" followed by the full names of the child. You are not thereby precluded from making a single application for your own benefit.

If you wish to apply jointly with another adult, see Note 7.

Put in Box 2 (in figures) the number of shares for which you are applying. You may only apply for one of the numbers of shares set out below. Applications for any other number of shares will be rejected.

Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now (only 50p per share)	Your total investment (135p per share)	Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now (only 50p per share)	Your total investment (135p per share)
100	£50	£135	1,000	£500	£1,350
200	£100	£270	1,500	£750	£2,025
300	£150	£405	2,000	£1,000	£2,700
400	£200	£540	2,500	£1,250	£3,375
500	£250	£675	3,000	£1,500	£4,050
600	£300	£810	3,500	£1,750	£4,725
700	£350	£945	4,000	£2,000	£5,400
800	£400	£1,080	4,500	£2,250	£6,075
900	£450	£1,215	5,000	£2,500	£6,750

Above 5,000 shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications	Multiples of
5,000 to 10,000 shares	1,000 shares
10,000 to 50,000 shares	5,000 shares
50,000 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

Using the table in Note 2, put in Box 3 (in figures) the amount you pay now.

Payment is in three instalments. The second instalment of 45p per share is payable by 3 p.m. on 9th June, 1987 and the final instalment of 40p per share by 3 p.m. on 19th April, 1988.

For bill vouchers, put "YES" in Box A. For the share bonus, put "YES" in Box B. COMPLETE ONE BOX ONLY.

If you complete both boxes you will be deemed to have applied for the share bonus only. If you do not complete either box, you will not receive bill vouchers or the share bonus. Before making your choice, you should read the details of the special incentives set out opposite.

Once the application form is submitted your choice may not be changed.

Sign and date the form in Box 5.

The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf if he is duly authorised to do so, but he must enclose his power of attorney.

A corporation must sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

WARNING

Only one application may be made for the benefit of any person. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for the benefit of any person.

Pin to Box 6 a cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount you have entered in Box 3. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "British Gas Share Offer". Please ensure that it is crossed and write on it "Not Negotiable".

Your payment must relate solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your building society or a bank branch.

An application may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" in favour of the applicant(s).

JOINT APPLICANTS

You may apply jointly with up to three other people, provided each applicant is aged 18 or over. They should complete and sign Box 7.

Power(s) of attorney must be enclosed if anyone is signing on behalf of any joint applicant(s).

British Gas plc

PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

To The Secretary of State for Energy · National Westminster Bank PLC
N M Rothschild & Sons Limited · British Gas plc

Before completing this form, please read carefully the accompanying guide.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr, Mrs, Miss or title Forename(s) (in full)

Surname

Address

Post code

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1. Accepted on

2. Shares accepted

3. Amount received

4. Amount payable

5. Amount returned

6. Cheque no.

I/We offer to purchase

Ordinary Shares

in British Gas plc on and subject to the Terms and Conditions set out on this page and in the Prospectus comprising the Listing Particulars dated 21st November, 1986

and I/we attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount now payable of

£

I/We wish to receive

Bill vouchers

A

Share bonus

B

PLEASE WRITE "YES" IN ONE BOX ONLY

I declare that to my knowledge this is the only application made for my benefit (or that of the person(s) for whose benefit I am applying).

Date 1986 Signature

Pin here your cheque/bankers' draft for the amount in Box 3, payable to "British Gas Share Offer" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

JOINT APPLICANTS

The first applicant should sign Box 5. Using BLOCK CAPITALS, insert below the names of the other joint applicants, who must sign in the right hand column.

I/We join in this application and give the declaration set out above.

Mr, Mrs, Miss or title	Forename(s) (in full)	Surname	Signature
2nd joint applicant			
3rd joint applicant			
4th joint applicant			

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Those claiming constitution or reallocation of commission should stamp both boxes applicable to them.

Stamp of person claiming constitution and reallocation of commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of other intermediary claiming reallocation of commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of person claiming constitution and reallocation of commission and VAT reg. no.	Stamp of other intermediary claiming reallocation of commission and VAT reg. no.
(if not required for VAT, put "none")	(if not required for VAT, put "none")	(if not required for VAT, put "none")	(if not required for VAT, put "none")
Accepted on	Shares accepted	Accepted on	Shares accepted
Commission calculated	Commission calculated	Commission calculated	Commission calculated

FAMILY MONEY/4

A neat way to land yourself in the profit zone

INVESTING

I am a higher-rate taxpayer and do not want to put any money into business expansion schemes, which I regard as generally high-risk. I have also used up my pension allowances. How else can I invest in order to get tax relief against my income? **DANBY BLOCH and RAYMOND GODFREY** advise

There is an investment which is 100 per cent property-based and on which you can get a 100 per cent tax deduction - commercial property located in enterprise zones.

If you are a 50 or 60 per cent taxpayer, the attraction of investing in an enterprise zone building is that you need make little or no initial outlay in cash and you can look forward to seeing a return in the form of an income. There is no limit on the level of your investment and it does not eat into your entitlement for business expansion scheme investment. And you do not need to be a millionaire. The minimum investment is normally about £5,000.

In the long run, there could well be a capital profit. A number of enterprise

zones have been set up in designated areas of about 300 acres. Commercial buildings within the zone can qualify for the 100 per cent tax deduction which applies to offices as well as factories and warehouses.

When you invest in an enterprise zone building, you benefit from tax relief on 100 per cent of the qualifying expenditure.

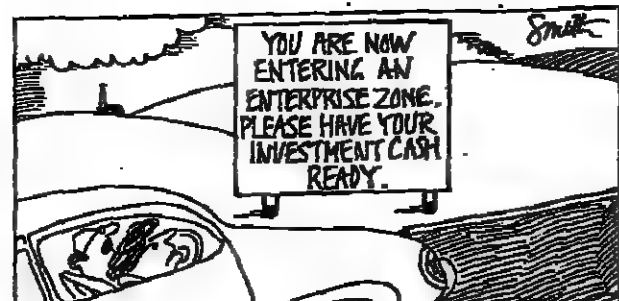
So a high earner with a taxable income of £41,200 or more would benefit from 60

Tax relief would usually be won back

per cent tax relief. In other words, on £10,000 qualifying expenditure, you would receive tax relief of £6,000.

The investment has to be regarded as a long-term holding. The tax relief on the initial purchase would normally be clawed back in the form of a balancing charge if you were to sell the property within 25 years, although there are ways of mitigating this.

But you will see some income from your investment almost immediately. And yields are likely to be 5 to 7 per cent, depending on the loca-



ity, it becomes very attractive indeed.

For example, you could invest £10,000 and obtain, at 60 per cent tax relief, £6,000. You could finance the purchase with a borrowing of £4,000 at say 13½ per cent (2½ per cent over base rate).

The cost would be £540 a year, which should be adequately covered by the rental income that you receive and on which you would therefore pay no tax.

The best scheme would be to arrange a loan where capital repayments are not required or at least where it is possible to set up a pension linked mortgage.

It should be possible to raise funds on the security of the investment. Otherwise, if you were to borrow over a 10-year period, the capital repayments for an endowment policy to generate £10,000 at the end of the term would be about £700 a year.

After 25 years, the property could be sold off with no balancing charge. Meanwhile, you will have used money that would otherwise have gone to the taxman in order to build up future income and capital growth for yourself.

Is such a plan just for millionaires and Big Bang players? After all, you are

unlikely to be able to buy a self-contained building or part of a building for less than about £200,000, although a few very small properties might be available for £100,000.

Probably the answer for most investors is to use the unitized arrangement established through Property Enterprise Trust, which is linked to the quoted property company London and Edinburgh Trust plc.

The unitized scheme spreads the investment and as a result the risk over several buildings in a number of enterprise zones.

Very substantial investors must consider the competing claims of buying into individual developments which they can identify (and perhaps even use) as their own. But for most people with less than £20,000 to invest, there is probably no choice.

The drawbacks are clear.

The return is more long-term

Though the input is really very small, the investment is illiquid for at least 10 years. Though the risk is substantially less than for most BES schemes, the return is substantially longer-term. Rental growth may not turn out as expected and if that is the case, capital growth will also not be achieved.

Wise taxpayers should be scanning the possibilities now in order to make their arrangements in good time.

● Contact: The Property Enterprise Trust, 243 Knightsbridge, London SW7. (01-486 5267).



Bob Morris: Sun Life of Canada encourages clients to use the loan scheme

SPENDING

The season of "spend, spend, spend" is almost upon us. There is no other time like it for throwing caution to the wind and having a financial binge. But whether it is for an extra special Christmas present, another case of wine, or something else altogether, the cost of getting your hands on some additional cash is not cheap.

The most usual, and convenient, way of stretching your budget is through Barclaycard or Access. That way you need not feel the pinch for at least a month, and the full blow of how much you have spent will never hit you if you continue to pay off the bare minimum on a monthly basis.

Another popular way of borrowing is simply to go to the bank manager. More often than not he will not object to your having an overdraft. Not surprisingly, when you realize how much you will end up paying for it. Even with the bank's prior consent an overdraft will cost you between 3 and 7 per cent above the base lending rate (now 11 per cent).

If you just keep an writing cheques without the bank manager's permission, it is likely to cost you 12 per cent

How to avoid the crunch at Christmas

over base rate plus administration charges, a nasty £5 plus VAT for every letter reminding you that you are overdrawn.

Barclaycard and Access charge 2 per cent a month, or 26.5 per cent APR on purchases, 27.2 per cent for cash advances. Looking at the APR, or annual percentage rate, is a convenient way to compare the different costs of borrowing. It represents the total amount of interest which someone can expect to pay, taking into account how much is actually owed at different times during the loan.

For example, if you were to borrow £200 at 14 per cent interest to be repaid monthly over a year, as the months go by you would owe less and less until by the end of the 12 months you would owe nothing. On average over the year you would owe £100, but would still pay 14 per cent interest on the sum of £200 - that is, £28. The APR, then, taking into account that the amount of the loan diminishes, would be just under 28 per cent.

Back to the various methods of borrowing. A personal bank loan will cost a fixed 19.7 per cent a year (a figure supplied by Barclays and Midland Banks), while an unsecured loan, that is, a loan not tied to your property or other assets, through a finance house such as Mercantile Credit will cost as much as 32 per cent APR.

Unfortunately, there is no free way to borrow money, other than through a kind-hearted relative or friend. But if you have a life insurance policy you might not be aware that you may be able to borrow money against it at an extremely favourable rate of interest, as long as your policy

provided by Sun Alliance. Last year the company granted 1,100 policy loans. The minimum sum it will lend is £250 and its current rate of interest is 12.5 per cent. Compare that with the cost of an overdraft or credit cards and the benefits speak for themselves.

According to a detailed survey carried out by *Planned Savings* Magazine earlier this year, most companies offering life insurance policies issue policy loans too, and most of them charge an interest rate between 12 and 13 per cent. These rates do not change often.

Like Sun Alliance, most companies have a minimum sum that can be borrowed, varying between £25 and £500, but the most common bottom level is £100. Around half of the companies are willing to lend up to 90 per cent of the

Defeating the aim of life insurance?

surrender value; the vast majority between 80 and 90 per cent.

Despite the availability of such loans, and the obvious benefits in terms of cost, remarkably few people take advantage of the facility on offer, probably because they do not know it exists. Sun Life of Canada tops the table, having granted 9,977 loans last year. That represents one loan for every 35 life insurance policies it has on the go.

Bob Morris, Sun Life of Canada's policy payments manager, says the company has a field force of 800 representatives who encourage clients with cash problems to use the loan scheme rather than being tempted to surrender their policy altogether and lose the tax relief on the investment to which they are entitled.

But though this feature no doubt helps to sell a company's policies, there is a feeling that paying out a loan defeats the purpose of having life insurance at all. Brian Bergin, Sun Alliance's marketing services manager, says his company sells its life policies as long-term savings vehicles, and to borrow money against them is almost a contradiction of the aim.

But he stresses that the company would prefer someone to take out a loan to solve immediate financial problems than surrendering the policy altogether.

Perhaps the most important point to bear in mind is that one of the main reasons for taking out a life policy is to make sure that your dependants will be financially secure should you die. Taking out a loan against that policy simply whittles down the amount left at the end of the day.

Kate Brown

INSURE YOUR LIFE FOR UP TO £130,000 FROM JUST PENNIES A DAY

"If you're not sure you need life insurance, please read my letter."

To whom it may concern,
Please read my letter. If you are thinking of becoming insured, or maybe in any doubt as to whether you need to be insured, I met my late husband Bob. When I was fifteen years



called Ian, who we had both longed for. We had our first holiday with Ian when he was eighteen months old. We were so very happy, it was never to be forgotten, because just after that Bob came home from work one day and died with a heart attack. The doctors at the hospital said there was nothing they could do they tried everything. So I went home to my son, who wanted to know where his Daddy was. Some days later I rang John at Sun Life of Canada. He said that he would take care of me and that I should not worry. I met my late husband Bob when I was fifteen years old. When I was eighteen we decided to move and buy a house and when we married Bob said how important it was to have some insurance behind us. So we met Mr. John Hall, who came and helped us with what little money we could spare to the best advantage possible. Now as time went by we had many difficulties. Once Bob was very short of work and I had an illness which lasted 1 year. This meant I could not work. With high mortgage and bills it was hard. But still we kept up our insurance. We had years without a holiday and being so young one day I asked why are we struggling and yet paying for insurance? Nothing is going to happen. But Bob said nothing was more important. He explained that if anything should happen to him, he would never want me to struggle. He was so caring, he said hard times would pass and they did. A few more years went by and things got better. We had a little boy

amount of money, believe me it is so very important.

Yours Faithfully
Anne Johnson

ES. Thank you Sun Life of Canada. Thank you John Hall and thank you Bob for putting your family before yourself.

Mrs. Johnson's letter speaks for itself. Protecting your life is a very important thing to do - especially if you're married, and even more so if you have children, or other dependants. With Sun Life of Canada's high protection, low cost Insurance Plan you can now take out up to £130,000 of life cover from just 45p a day. And your plan lasts for ten years.

Why you need high protection life insurance

If you talk to someone you trust about money - an accountant, or a bank manager - they'll advise you that nothing is as important as protecting your family with life insurance. So that, should you die, your nearest and dearest will have a generous lump sum to help them manage. Plenty of money, in fact, to provide for their future.

Special offer. Apply today! It's easy to put off an important decision like this, so to help you get started we've arranged a special discount. If you reply quickly you'll receive your first month's cover for just £1, no matter how much

cover you decide you need. That could save you up to £29.

Generous double benefit. Many people worry what would happen if they were to die in an accident.

With this Plan you receive a generous double benefit in the event of an accidental death. And any money paid out under this Plan is absolutely tax-free as the law stands at present.

The Plan is flexible. Once you've joined this Plan you have the right to change it into one of many other plans without having to take a medical.

You'd be surprised how useful this is. Any time in the next ten years you can switch the Plan into, say, a savings scheme. You could use it as part of an endowment mortgage. Or you could arrange what we call a "whole life" policy to protect you throughout the whole of your life.

Your acceptance is guaranteed. No medical, either. Your acceptance is guaranteed providing you can truthfully answer "no" to four simple health questions (and that you sign the declaration below). Even if you do have to answer "yes" to one or more of the health questions, don't worry. We may still be able to accept your application once you have given us further details.

If you've got any questions, you can call us on 01-930 2976.

Can call us on 01-930 2976.

YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS "READY RECKONER" THAT YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FOR UP TO £130,000 FROM JUST PENNIES PER DAY

	PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C	PLAN D	PLAN E
AMOUNT PAYABLE ON DEATH	£10,000	£20,000	£35,000	£50,000	£65,000
TOTAL COVER IF DEATH ACCIDENTAL	£20,000	£40,000	£70,000	£100,000	£130,000
MONTHLY PREMIUM					
20-30	£5.00	£6.00	£7.35	£10.50	£13.65
31-35	£5.00	£6.20	£7.10	£10.30	£13.40
36-40	£5.40	£6.40	£7.25	£10.50	£13.65
41-45	£6.00	£7.00	£8.25	£11.75	£14.85
46-50	£6.30	£7.30	£8.50	£12.00	£15.10
51-55	£6.70	£7.70	£8.90	£12.40	£15.50

Either Melinda Smith or Sally Dexter will be happy to help.

Sun Life of Canada's Double Guarantee

1. We guarantee never to increase the price of your plan no matter what happens to inflation.
2. We guarantee never to cancel your policy as long as you pay your premiums.

28 day no-risk trial. You can examine your high protection, low cost Insurance Plan at home for 28 days without obligation.

If you're not convinced that it's the best way to protect your family, simply return it to us and we'll send you back your £1. So it won't cost you a penny to discover the peace of mind

which this Plan brings.

How to apply. Look at the "ready reckoner" shown here and decide how much cover you need.

★ If, for example, you want £50,000 of cover, rising to £100,000 in the event of accidental death, then you want Plan D.

★ Tick the appropriate box on the Priority Application and complete the rest of the form.

★ Remember, you only need to send a cheque for £1 with your application. So you could save up to £29.

★ Post your Application to Sun Life of Canada, Dept. DM, Freeport, London SW1Y 5YX. You don't need a stamp... we'll pay the postage.

Sun Life of Canada

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, incorporated in Canada in 1865, is a limited company. A mutual company since 1962. 2, 3 & 4, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 1BE.

INFORMATION HOTLINE 01-930 2976/7 NO STAMP NEEDED WHEN YOU WRITE

Return the coupon below - no stamp needed

any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life, and I authorise the giving of such information.

YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) (Maiden name if applicable)

BLACK CAPITAL LETTERS FIRST NAMES

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

DATE OF BIRTH DAY MONTH YEAR

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN:

SIGNATURE DATE

POST NOW TO: SUN LIFE OF CANADA, DEPT. DM, FREEPOST, LONDON SW1Y 5YX. NO STAMP NEEDED.

Available only to persons living in the United Kingdom.

Please make your cheque for £1 payable to Sun Life of Canada.

Priority Application. Sun Life of Canada's Family Protection Insurance Plan

JUST £1 TO START

YOUR FIRST MONTH COSTS JUST £1

Yes, please send me, without obligation, a policy for the Family Protection Plan I have selected which will be mine to examine for 28 days. I enclose £1 for my first month's cover.

I WISH TO APPLY FOR:

PLAN A ☐ PLAN B ☐ PLAN C ☐ PLAN D ☐ PLAN E ☐

Please tick appropriate box.

Do you have a bank current account?

FOUR SIMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Are there any risks or special dangers connected with your occupation, hobbies, sports or pastimes?

2. Have you ever undergone any hospital investigation or operation other than for the removal of wisdom teeth, tonsils or appendix?

3. Have you during the last five years received any medical advice, treatment or prescription from a doctor other than for colds?

4. Are you currently experiencing any symptoms which might suggest that you are not in good physical and mental condition?

Please tick here if you do not smoke.

If your answer is "yes" to any question, in most cases we hope to be able to give you the benefit of the terms as shown in the rate table. Please give full details on a separate sheet of paper, together with the name and address of your present doctor. Then sign and date the sheet. You should still send us your £1 for your first month's cover.

YOUR DECLARATION:

I DECLARE that all statements made by me in this application are true and complete to the best of my belief, and that I have disclosed all facts known to me and sought by the Company.

I AGREE that this application together with any additional declaration made by me in connection herewith shall be the basis of the insurance, and that failure by me to disclose all facts known to me and sought by the Company may lead to a claim under any resulting policy being adjusted or rejected.

I CONSENT to the Company seeking medical information from any doctor who at any time has attended me concerning anything which affects my physical and mental health, or seeking information from

ARE YOU Self-employed and feel you can't afford to be ill?

The problem with being self-employed is finding the time to take time off. So when illness forces an unplanned rest on you, the financial consequences can be quite devastating.

That's why private insurance with BCWA makes sense. For over 50 years BCWA has consistently underwritten the theory that private medical insurance is a rich man's club. During that time we have acquired a national reputation for being "best buy" in the market.

Our schemes include excellent cover for private hospital charges, specialist fees, out-patient treatment, and an Additional Cash Payment option. BCWA ensures that when you are ill, you can afford it.

bcwa Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria St, Bristol BS1 6AB Tel: (0272) 2937-42

Bristol Contributory Welfare Association
PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE

Bristol Contributory Welfare Association
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AB

Please send me details of the Private Patients Scheme

I am aged under 65 ☐ For Individuals ☐

For members of Professional/Trade Associations ☐

Name

Address

Postcode

FAMILY MONEY/5

A wider choice for job-hoppers

A major problem for those who have moved jobs more than once during their working life has been that they have found on retirement that their pension has suffered in comparison with those employees who have stayed with one company.

The Government, noticing the obvious injustice and hoping to prevent anything that would hinder job mobility, has acted to help alleviate blight on the early leaver.

Now, for instance, the offer of a transfer value from a company pension scheme is compulsory.

Those leaving a job after more than five years have three options: they can leave their pension contributions with their previous employer, who will eventually pay a preserved pension on their retirement; they can transfer the money to a new employer — if he is prepared to accept the sum and if he has a suitable scheme, or they can transfer the value of their

Stephen Spurdon analyses the pensions choices facing people who change employment in the light of moves to increase job mobility

the choice of purchasing a buy-out bond as either with profits or unit-linked.

Of the two approaches, the bond with profits is definitely the more cautious and conservative, offering steady, secure growth based on the accumulation of annual reversionary bonuses. There is also the possibility of a terminal bonus, paid at retirement, but these are not guaranteed, the possibility of payment and the level of payment being dependent on prevailing market conditions.

Unit-linked policies, however, offer a greater possibility of gain. But it is also the case that the price of units will rise and fall in line with market conditions, so it will be hard luck if your retirement date coincides with the low point of the cycle.

The companies offering these policies will usually state a minimum transfer value that they will accept to initiate a buy-out bond. This will be, typically £1,000 to £2,000.

All the bonds available are based on the principle of money purchase, which means that the pension you receive will be based on the value of the fund accumulated at retirement.

Most company pension schemes, however, are based on the final salary principle, which means that your pension at retirement will be based on a proportion of your final salary. So, anyone thinking of buying a buy-out bond will have to ensure that quotations for the bond match the

benefits of the scheme they are leaving.

The point is that the only realistic means of comparison between the benefits being left behind and those projected in a buy-out bond is to ensure that they match one another as closely as possible.

The projected fund figure contained in the quotation is, of course, not guaranteed. However, that sum is intended to provide your pension, a pension on your death for your spouse if you wish it, plus any pension increases you require, and the tax-free lump sum which you can have by sacrificing part of your pension.

The basis for with profits quotations has recently been changed. In an attempt to cut down on the "telephone number" projections, life office can only quote on the assumption that the maximum growth in the fund reflected in bonus payments is 13 per cent a year. With profits quotations will now appear more or less similar, and will be brought broadly in line with unit-linked quotations.

However, readers who have already asked about a buy-out bond during the last year may have encountered difficulty because the wording of the 1985 Social Security Act unintentionally resulted in pension-fund trustees being temporarily unable to pass transfer values on to insurance companies for buy-out bonds.

The trustees had found that they

needed to indemnify themselves against future claims by former scheme members.

The problem has been partly resolved because the wording of the Act has been amended. But some doubts still remain and so it may be that the trustees of your former company's pension scheme will require the insurance company you select for your buy-out bond to sign an indemnity form.

A survey of the 35 buy-out bonds on the market which appeared in *Pensions Management* magazine recently found that London & Manchester, Canada Life, Cannon Assurance, FS Assurance, Providence Capital, Sun Life of Canada and Windsor Life were the only ones prepared to sign the indemnity form. Eagle Star, Equitable Life and Sun Life were prepared to sign it in a modified form.

Since that survey appeared, Sun

No time limit on a transfer value

Alliance has announced that it will also sign indemnity forms.

But before rushing into the purchase of a buy-out bond with these companies, compare their performance with other offices who are not prepared to sign the indemnity. You may find that it is as well to sit back and wait until the whole matter is cleared up.

Remember, there is no time limit on taking a transfer value. In fact, any time after leaving a pension scheme, you may write to the trustees and request a transfer value, right up to one year before you retire.

Who needs PEP, says unit trust firm

"A lot of publicity is likely to be devoted to Personal Equity Plans during the next two to three months." So says Henderson Unit Trust Management, which is now designing its own PEP.

How right they are and how timely becomes a warning note on PEPs from the Bristol-based Premier Unit Trust Brokers.

Putting his cards squarely on the table, Premier says it has "a distinct lack of enthusiasm for this malformed cripple, conceived by the Chancellor in one of his siller moments".

Premier urges people not to get too carried away, too quickly, as they read the glossy inducements now beginning to pour from the financial institutions, because there is no need to hurry.

The 1987 calendar year PEP maximum investment of £2,400 can be placed at any time up to 31 December 1987 — and whenever during 1987 you make the investment in whatever PEP, you won't get any tax advantages if you do anything with that investment before 31 December 1988.

Hence, runs the argument, anyone who rushes now into

one of the few available PEPs being marketed, and

hands over his cash on or

before 1 January 1987, could

well be looking into an

expensive, inflexible and

uncomplicated early

contract. "Let others be the

guinea pigs, just for now",

is Premier's advice.

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Winter is on its way, comes the seasonal greeting from the insurance companies. In particular, say the insurers, make sure your gutters are not blocked, check that your drains are clear, put new washers on dripping taps and have your heating appliances serviced. With a list like that, they might have called their leaflet Have A Nice Weekend, but they called it Watch out for Winter. Apart from the tips, it has advice to help people prevent or minimize storm damage, burst pipes and other miseries of a typical British winter. It also gives information on household insurance and how to claim if you suffer damage. Available free by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Dept W, Association of British Insurers, Alderman House, Queen Street, London EC4N 1TT.

wide-ranging changes in the

last Finance Act, including

the introduction of inheritance

Tax.

Also included is advice on

tax-saving strategies, how to

draw up a will and how to

administer the estate of a

deceased person. It is

written jointly by accountant

Walter Sinclair and solicitor

Peter Silke, and is available

through leading

bookshops, price £12.50.

Now regulating

Complicated and much

criticized it may be, but the

new system of self-

regulation set up by the

Financial Services Act is

very much a reality. The body

which will in practical terms

be overseeing the system —

the Securities and

Investments Board — has

produced a free booklet

which puts the whole system in

context and outlines how it

will work and who the main

players at self-regulation

will be.

Clearly written, it is an

invaluable quick reference

guide. It also contains a list

explaining what all the

unfamiliar sets of initials,

introduced in the name of self-

regulation, mean.

And the booklet gives a

government-health type

warning about the limits of

self-regulation. "The existence

of SIS no more removes

the need for investors to pay

attention to where they

place their money than the

existence of the highway

code removes the need to look

before crossing the road".

For single free copies

contact the Securities and

Investments Board, 3 Royal

Exchange Buildings, London

EC3V 3NL.

Now contract

Commercial Union

Assurance has brought out a

new contract called the

Prime Trustee Plan which is

designed to allow trustees

of small self-administered

pension schemes access to

CU's Prime Series pension

funds.

Under the scheme, trustees

can invest initial amounts of

£10,000 or more in a range

of eight funds, such as its

managed fund, as well as

funds which specialize in UK

and international equities.

Until now, investment in these

funds has been available

only through policies where the

investment is earmarked for

an individual scheme

member.

New pension deal for millions

The Government has finally unveiled its proposed rules for the taxation of personal pensions.

The new proposals came in a consultative document from the Inland Revenue, entitled *Improving the pensions choice*.

Announcing publication of the document on Thursday, Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, declared that there would be a new pensions deal for the 10 million employees in this country who did not belong to an occupational pension scheme — and a wider pensions choice for all employees.

Mr Lamont said that in the past barriers to mobility, including the existing provisions for pensions, had been a drag on the country's economic performance.

With the improvement of job mobility as an important government objective, the new proposals were designed to give much greater opportunity to people to have a pension arrangement which they could take with them when they changed jobs.

The key points of the new proposals are:

- tax relief for personal pensions to be based broadly on the present rules for self-employed retirement annuities. This means that most people will be able to pay in up

to 17.5 per cent of earnings to a personal pension plan.

• broadly the same rules for all personal pension arrangements, whether taken out by employees or the self-employed.

• special rules, with minimal red tape, for new simplified occupational pension schemes offering "no frills" benefits.

• a new simplified type of money purchase occupational pension scheme with no benefit limits, and with tax relief limited by reference to contributions.

• much greater transferability



Lamont: a better choice

between different types of pension arrangement. It may all sound rather technical but these proposals could have a direct impact not only on the 11 million people who are members of occupational pension schemes but also the 10 million company employees whose pensions are handled by the state, currently through

the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme.

The Government's intention is that personal pensions should be available to all employees as an alternative to membership of an occupational pension scheme or the State scheme as from April 1988.

The initial reaction from Henry James, director-general of the National Association of Pension Funds, yesterday was that his association had been begging the Government to introduce a single and simple structure for the administration of pension plans and that he would be studying the proposals accordingly.

The Inland Revenue wants detailed comments on its proposals by 30 January 1987.

Peter Gartland

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N M ROTHSCHILD ASSET MANAGEMENT

Should we tell Sid about Barrington?

KLEINWORT

In a further article in his series on the changing role of financial institutions, **JOHN ROBERTS** puts Kleinwort Benson under the microscope

Having shed most of its interests in the M&G unit trust group, Kleinwort Benson, one of the City's largest merchant banks, feels free to develop more vigorously its own separate unit-trust interests under the Barrington banner. And says it intends to do so.

Kleinwort, strong in corporate finance, is among the leaders in takeover activity. It achieved a coup by taking over the stockbroking firm Grieson Grant. GG is highly regarded for both the size and quality of its private client business and, under the Barrington label, operated the largest stockbroker-based unit trust group.

In unit trusts, as in other parts of the business, there was a neat fit. Kleinwort's in-house funds were largely offshore whereas Barrington was strong in authorized unit trusts, but puny offshore. Today the merged group has balance, with £456 million of funds in its UK trusts and £340 million in offshore-based funds which may not be sold direct to the British public but are available through intermediaries

such as stockbrokers and banks.

Of more concern to us is the investment performance. Barrington has consistently been among the best of the entire industry. Kleinwort has been undistinguished.

Will Barrington's superior abilities prevail? That will obviously depend on how the enlarged group is managed. Already several of the previously separate trusts have been merged, but that is to comply with Department of Trade & Industry rules that trusts with too-similar investment objectives may not be under the same management for fear of conflicts of interest.

Kleinwort's Tony Mortimer excused poor investment performance in what used to be the KB Unit Fund and is now the Equity Growth Fund on the grounds that recasting had obviously caused disruption. The results of my own studies of the Kleinwort trusts' reports lie at odds with that.

UK Equity Growth Fund was less actively managed than its stable companions by several criteria. I examined various factors such as the value of new shares acquired as a percentage of the end-period portfolio value and sales of shares as a percentage of the portfolio from which they were made.

By all these benchmarks, the dealing activity was extraordinarily high, ranging to 95 per cent in the American Growth Fund. The UK Equity Growth cited by Mr Mortimer was the second-least actively



Tony Mortimer: Recasting problems Tim Edwards: Vague on the details Peter Saunders: Aggressive selling

managed of the eight Kleinwort trusts. On some funds, there was a high throughput with shares newly bought being sold within the same six-month period. That the smaller companies - since merged with its Barrington counterpart - should sell within six months half its new investments seems extraordinary given the

poorer marketability and larger spreads between bid and offer share prices which characterize this end of the market.

The vindication would lie in performance but Mr Mortimer did not refute my point that this had been poor. He was not on top of the numbers.

Nor was Tim Edwards who,

in coming from Grieson Grant, knew that Barrington had done well. When I met him he was, however, vague about the details.

These are the men who must make the enlarged Barrington work for us.

As soon as we met, Tony Mortimer told me that Kleinwort's unit trusts were but a part of the responsibilities he bore. These extend to property investment "and a mainline policymaking role in the bank".

Tim Edwards, in addition to his other tasks within what is now Kleinwort Grieson, is a member of the Council of the Stock Exchange. I was left in no doubt that for both men, the weight of their other concerns was, for them at least, awesome.

The only director solely committed to Barrington full-time is the worthy Robin Shearn, the secretary and director of administration. For all his undoubted merits, that appears a poor augury for dynamic and creative management.

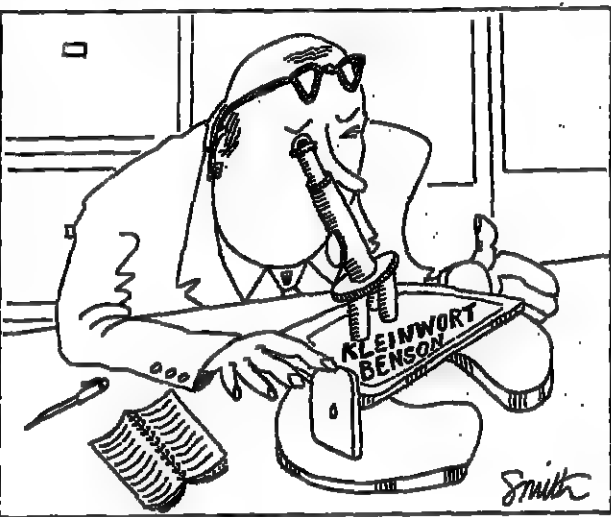
How hard will Barrington be selling to us? As its director, Peter Saunders, told me, Barrington had not been sold aggressively in the past because Grieson Grant had felt a natural inhibition about competing with fund management firms which were the stockbrokers' clients. The unit trusts had been largely a convenient vehicle for handling private clients' money.

Mr Mortimer confirmed that the same had held true for Kleinwort.

Big Bang has changed all that. But Tim Edwards told me: "We shall promote Barrington gradually over the next five years. We will be selling through intermediaries (accountants, solicitors, insurance brokers and the like), not going for money off the street."

"We shall be aiming for the high net worth individuals, not for the general public through newspaper coupons and the like."

Perhaps there's no need to "tell Sid" about Barrington.



INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

Banks
 Current account - no interest paid.
 Deposit accounts - seven days' notice required for withdrawals.
 Barclays 5 per cent, NatWest 5 per cent, Midland 5 per cent, NatWest 5 per cent, National Girobank 5 per cent. Fixed term deposits: £10,000 to £24,999 - 1 month 7.50 per cent, 3 months 7.75 per cent, 6 months 7.82 per cent (National Westminster); 1 month 7.101 per cent, 3 months 7.258 per cent, 6 months 7.258 per cent (Midland). Other banks may differ.

Fund	Net GRAR	Telephone
Adrian Home	7.55 7.94	01 698 8070
Barclays	7.55 7.94	01 698 8080
Barclays Higher Rate		
Deposit Account	7.13 7.32	01 698 1887
£1,000-24,999	7.81 7.96	01 698 1587
£25,000 & over	7.55 7.83	01 698 1277
Carter Allen	7.55 7.83	01 698 2722
Cash	7.55 7.83	01 591 1477
Money Mail Plus	7.55 7.83	01 236 8361
HFC Trust 7-day	8.50 8.66	01 236 8361
Herndon Money		
Market		
Cheque Account	7.55 7.83	01 698 8757
L.G. High Rate	7.55 7.83	01 385 3211
Lloyds	7.70 7.83	01 625 1500
M&G HPCA	7.55 7.83	01 698 4358
Midland	7.55 7.83	01 698 4358
Midland HPCA	7.55 7.83	01 698 4358
£2,000-24,999	7.45 7.55	0742 20300
£25,000 & over	7.70 7.83	0742 20300
Net West High		
Rate Spec Reserve	7.55 7.83	01 728 1000
£2,000-24,999	7.55 7.83	01 728 1000
£25,000 & over	7.70 7.83	01 728 1000
Oppenheimer Money		
Management Account	7.55 7.83	01 236 9382
under £10,000	7.55 7.83	01 236 9382
over £10,000	7.70 7.83	01 236 9382
Royal Bank of Scotland		
Premia Account	7.75 7.98	01 597 0801
S&P Call	7.75 7.98	0706 68005
Schroder		
Wage	7.25 7.54	0705 827735
over £10,000	7.48 7.74	0705 827735
Tuke & Riley	8.17 8.30	01 236 0832
1 & 1/2 R-7-day	7.48 8.14	01 236 0832
Tyndall		
call	7.81 8.04	0272 722241
Tyndall 7-day	7.82 7.84	0272 722241
Unit Trust	7.55 7.83	01 698 4361
Western Trust		



1 month 7.70 8.04 0752 281181
 3 months 7.70 8.04 0752 281181
 6 months 7.70 8.04 0752 281181
 1 year 7.70 8.04 0752 281181
 Rates are the latest available at the time of going to press.
 Research: Deborah Khan

National Savings Bank
 Ordinary Accounts - If a minimum balance of £100 maintained for whole of 1986, 6 per cent interest p.a. for each complete month where balance is over £500, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Accounts - 11.75 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £100,000.

National Savings Income Bond
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tax. Repayment at 3 months' notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Indexed Income Bond
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National Savings 4th Index-Linked Certificate
 Maximum investment - £5,000 excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the Retail Prices Index. Supplement of 3.00 per cent in the first year, 3.25 per cent in the second, 3.50 per cent in the third, 4.50 per cent in the fourth and 5.00 per cent in the fifth. Value of Retirement Issue Certificate purchased in November 1981, £148.86 including bonus and supplement. October RPI 388.4. (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month).

National Savings Certificate
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The route to better cover

INSURANCE

One-time steady drivers choosing family cars are increasingly opting for high-performance models from a growing range of injection, turbo and sports saloons, according to the Prudential.

The fact is that motor-insurance premiums have risen by more than 20 per cent right across the market this year. But while insurers produce new ways of explaining the increases, what can motorists do to lessen the damage to their wallets? Broadly, the options are:

Shop around for a better quote

Though the rate rises have affected the whole of the market, discrepancies can appear between companies' rating guides. Good local brokers should be able to detect them and the AA has an extensive quoting system. But buying the cheapest is not necessarily the best policy. Lloyd's syndicates, for instance, frequently quote lower rates but some have a reputation for being less than helpful when a claim goes in.

Many people stick to large insurers they know. Rate increases have varied between them. GRE was unusual in announcing only one rise this year: 12.5 per cent effective from next month. But the company applied rates for smaller to medium cars in June while cutting those for larger saloons.

Other big insurers had at least two, possibly even three, rises to report. Legal and General announced increases of 15 per cent in January and 12.5 per cent in August. Commercial Union added rates by 8 per cent in January and 8.5 per cent in October.

Prudential weighed in with a 9.3 per cent hike in April and another increase in August split between 15.9 per cent for comprehensive policies and 9.3 per cent for non-comprehensive. The difference, says the Pru, was because of the higher costs in

A leading insurer is having doubts about the driving habits of its normally reliable motor-insurance customers, those aged 35 to 45. Its policyholders have doubts, too, when they get their renewal forms. 'Who do they think I am - Nigel Mansell?' they ask. ROD MORRISON explains the ins and outs

providing accidental damage repair under comprehensive policies resulting from higher garage and spare-parts costs.

General Accident had three rises this year totalling 26.2 per cent for comprehensive and 22.2 per cent for non-comprehensive. Royal's rises averaged 26 per cent.

No-claims discounts

Claims-free driving benefits everybody and is rewarded by insurance companies with discounts of usually up to 60 per cent off premiums. So treasured is this benefit that many people do not claim in order to protect it.

Many people stick to big insurers that they know

But the benefit can be kept in another way by taking out a protected no-claims discount policy. In Royal's case, the cost is 12.5 per cent added to the premium in return for two allowable claims in four years without hurting the discount.

The Pru, however, has had to withdraw its protected no-claims discount, except on special policies, because policyholders were taking the company at its word by claiming all too often.

Voluntary excesses. Insurers will accept reduced premiums if the motorist agrees to pay part of any claim.

This is referred to as an excess and in most cases can be taken voluntarily, although these higher-risk categories such as young drivers and

sports-car owners might be forced to have an excess.

The reduction is usually calculated on a percentage basis but GRE has had to introduce flat discounts as premiums have risen sharply. For a £50 excess, GRE gives a £30 discount and for £100 excess a £50 discount.

Special packages

Family drivers, despite the Pru's views, are considered good risks and insurance-company marketing departments are enticing them with discount packages. But these policies provide less cover, hence the lower premiums.

Royal markets the Car Shield policy. Divided into two, the policy gives discounts of up to 12.5 per cent for drivers over 30 and 20 per cent for those over 50. But Royal imposes a compulsory £50 excess and the car must be driven only for domestic purposes.

Driving is restricted to husband and wife and both must have four years' claim-free experience. Those aged between 30 and 34 have to accept a £100 excess.

Commercial Union has a similar policy, Dual Driver. Reductions of up to 25 per cent are offered and the main driver must be over 30 with his or her partner over 25.

A £50 excess applies on comprehensive cover.

The discount package at the Pru is called Top Driver. Three drivers can use the car - main driver, spouse and one other named driver. All three need four years' claim-free experience and the policy has a £50 excess.

Other insurance companies integrate their discounts into the overall

rating structure and criticize companies for offering special packages.

Dave Aslett, of Legal & General, comments, however: 'They are just marketing ploys.'

In Legal & General's case, husbands and wives who restrict the driving to themselves can receive discounts of 10 to 12.5 per cent and single drivers are offered a 10 per cent discount.

Women drivers receive a further 10 per cent discount for the simple reason that their claims record is better.

General Accident is also fond of the fairer sex. Those under 28 automatically get two years' driving experience added to their record.

General Accident's other perk is a 20 per cent cut for owners of cars more than three years old in return for a £50 excess.

Another way to reduce premiums

There is a fifth way of reducing premiums: luck. The 20,000 members of the MG Car Owners Club insurance scheme had their rates reduced by 6 per cent after the transfer of policies from Crusader to Municipal General Insurance in September.

However, Crusader, part of the multinational CIGNA insurance group, badly bungled the announcement of its withdrawal from the personal-insurance market, saying that 'all existing policies' were going to MGI.

But it forgot to mention that half the number of motor policies, brokered by the AA - more than 50,000 in all - were to be transferred to the Norwich Union. Premiums on these policies were increased by 5 per cent. Win some, lose some.

Another landmark to guide the investor

Having legislated copiously in the last session of parliament on the building societies and the financial services industry, the House of Commons yesterday gave a second reading to the Banking Bill.

This is the third leg of a system aimed at protecting the investor irrespective of the medium through which he invests his savings. In this case it is more a question of updating existing legislation than introducing an entirely new set of rules.

After the banking crisis of the mid-1970s, the Banking Act of 1979 was aimed at improving the supervision of banks, while increasing the protection extended statutorily

to their customers. However, the Johnson-Matthey affair has underlined the need to improve this system and that is what the new Banking Legislation aims to do.

The main changes from the 1979 Act revolve around the creation of a Board of Banking Supervision, and the ending of

Ending two-tier system of 1979

the two-tier system introduced in the 1979 legislation. The new supervisory board will include independent members who are likely to have commercial banking experi-

ence enabling them to give advice to the Governor of the Bank of England in the exercise of his supervisory responsibilities.

Under the 1979 Act, authorisation and supervisory powers were based on a distinction between recognised banks and licensed deposit-taking institutions.

This was an attempt to maintain a degree of competition, encouraging respectable smaller institutions to remain active, but adding to the protection extended to the depositors, which had been easily lacking during the 1970s banking crisis.

Under the Banking Bill, which the Commons approved

yesterday, all authorised institutions will be subject to the same criteria and the same supervisory regime but, in future, use of the word 'bank' in a company's title will be confined to institutions with not less than £5 million paid-up capital.

In tune with the greater protection

system which remains, however, is that other authorised institutions with not less than £1 million paid-up capital will be able to provide financial services and accept deposits

subject to their not using the word 'bank' in their title.

The changes contained in the legislation are less than world-shattering, but are very much in tune with the increased protection to investors which is now the common currency of politicians and consumers alike.

I predict an easy passage of this Bill to the Statute Book, where it will join the Building Societies Act and the Financial Services Act as landmarks to change in the interests of the investor.

Robert McCrindle

The author is Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar.

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Income is paid twice yearly. Unit prices are shown in the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph and the current estimated yield can be found in the Financial Times. Distribution dates April 30th and October 31st.

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APPLICATION FORM

To: Atlanta Unit Trust Managers Limited, 46 Moorgate, London EC2R 6EL

I wish to invest £ in the Atlanta High Income Trust (minimum £500) and enclose my/our cheque(s) in favour of Atlanta Unit Trust Managers for this sum.

I wish to exchange shares/gifts - please send details ☐

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SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss)

FORENAMES

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE(S)

(If there are joint applicants, each must sign and attach names and addresses separately)

Special investment bonus for readers of this paper

Invest before December 18th, 1986 for a bonus allocation to units. For investments up to £4,999 it's 1% (10% invested).

For £5,000 upwards it's 2% (10% invested).

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Whether PC's decision reasonable

G v Chief Superintendent of Police, Stroud
Before Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Mr Justice Peter Pain
[Judgment November 28]

In reviewing the reasonableness of a constable's belief that a breach of the peace was likely to occur, allowance had to be made for the circumstances in which a constable had to make a spur of the moment decision in an emergency. Therefore a mere disturbance could amount to a likelihood of a breach of the peace.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court dismissed the defendant's appeal by case stated from his conviction by Cirencester Juvenile Court on January 20, 1986.

The Public Order Act 1936 provides by section 5 that "any person who in any public place... uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, with intent to provoke a breach of the peace or whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned, shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr Richard Gordon for the defendant, Mr Patrick Eccles for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that there was a public playground at Stroud where there were swings for children aged under 14. On August 31, 1985 the defendant, then aged 15, was using the swings and used abusive language in the presence of Mrs Merrick and her granddaughter aged three.

Mrs Merrick's son-in-law, Mr Chapman, asked the defendant to leave as he was using the age limit for the junior swings. The defendant refused, whereupon Mr Chapman called the police.

When the police arrived the defendant at first refused to give his name and address but subsequently did so. The defendant's mother arrived in an unprovoked and besides Mrs Merrick, Mr Chapman and

the child, there were several persons including children and young people in the vicinity. When the police approached they saw what was described as a "very ugly confrontation". The defendant's mother told him to go home, whereupon the defendant jumped off the swings and began to walk off.

As he did so he made a two-finger gesture at the police and constable shouted at him to stop but the defendant made the same gesture and shouted the same words again.

The police constable caught up with the defendant, took hold of his upper arm and told him he was under arrest. The defendant punched the constable in the face and struggled shouting "I'll fucking stab you" and both fell to the ground.

Another police constable helped to restrain the defendant who was told that he was under arrest.

The defendant was charged with using abusive words and behaviour in a public place contrary to section 5 of the 1936 Act and also with assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty contrary to section 51(1) of the Police Act 1964.

By section 7(3) of the 1936 Act a constable might without warrant arrest any person reasonably suspected by him of committing an offence under section 1, 4 or 5 of the Act.

The question which arose was whether the defendant's arrest was lawful. If it was not it was submitted that the constable was not acting in the execution of his duty.

Section 5 of the 1936 Act was concerned with incitement and provocation to breach of the peace and also with behaviour on the part of the possible defendant.

It was dealing with a situation where a breach of the peace had not yet been committed by anyone, although it might be committed by anyone who was evidence was privilege or public interest on the ground that the officer was sought because the appellant wished to pursue a legal aid problem as he had not obtained satisfaction from the prison legal aid officer.

Mr Shields made three submissions, each based on the premise that the conversation between the appellant and the principal officer concerned a legal aid matter.

The officer, in answer to questions, said that the appellant did not seek advice as to how to fill in the form. At most, the mention of legal aid was confined to the administrative problem that the appellant had been unable to get the legal aid officer to exercise his functions at a weekend.

There was no factual basis for any of Mr Shields' submissions. Their Lordships appreciated that problems could arise in cases where a legal aid officer was in fact exercising his functions. It was clearly desirable

that all parties should know what, if any, confidentiality attached to discussions between a prisoner and such an officer. The prisoner should know when, if at all, he could speak confidentially to the officer. Likewise, the officer and his superiors should know whether any, and if so what, use might be made of any information gleaned from a prisoner.

No privilege analogous to that between lawyer and client could arise. Such privilege was to be strictly confined to communications with lawyers or their agents. A legal aid officer was neither.

There was force, however, in the submission that discussions about the substance of a legal aid application should attract public interest immunity.

The prison rules provided the facility of assistance from a legal aid officer. The prisoner could have the freedom to go into a solicitor's office. If he availed himself of the facility offered he was likely to disclose and dis-

close matters connected with his alleged offence.

It would seem desirable in the public interest that those discussions should be confidential. Otherwise the scheme would not work. Prisoners would be reluctant to take advantage of it lest it took advantage of them.

The difficulty was to identify the occasions on which such confidentiality was to be preserved. To that end, it might be desirable that interviews to seek the assistance of a legal aid officer should be put on a sufficiently formal basis to be identified as such.

Immunity would then attach to such interviews but not to discussions and disclosures on other occasions.

In the present case the conversation clearly fell outside the protected class. The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Acton.

offence against section 5 of the 1936 Act had been committed, but no more.

The justices found that the constable believed genuinely and honestly that a further breach was likely to occur in the immediate future. That clearly implied that they found his belief was reasonable.

It was submitted for the defendant that there was no evidence that any third person was either put in fear or was likely to breach the peace, but that submission ignored the likelihood of a breach by the defendant himself.

The justices were also entitled to rely on the evidence of the police officers as to the behaviour of the defendant before the arrest. The reasonableness of the constable's belief was shown by the extraordinary violence of the defendant's resistance to arrest, which prompted two officers to overpower him.

There was evidence available to the justices and it was for them to assess its weight.

The test of "reasonableness", although a question of fact, was always treated as a question of law, and therefore open to review. The fact that the defendant was walking off was not a clear indication that he was going in the direction of his home.

General behaviour justified the constable's belief that a breach was likely.

Police officers had to make their decisions on the spot of the moment, and were subject to review, full allowance had to be made for the circumstances in which they found themselves in emergency.

Although no breach of the peace had occurred prior to the arrest, the constable was empowered to arrest the defendant and was acting in the execution of his duty.

Mr Justice Peter Pain agreed.

Solicitors: Ellis Pairs & Young, Winterbourne, Gloucester.

Confidentiality of prisoners' legal aid interviews

Regina v Umoh

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Russell
[Judgment November 28]

Interviews between prisoners and prison legal aid officers should, save in exceptional circumstances, be confidential.

The Court of Appeal held, however, that no privilege analogous to that between lawyer and client could arise in discussions between a prisoner and a prison legal aid officer, when reserved judgment was given dismissing an appeal by Mfonong Umoh, aged 23, a Nigerian national, from conviction for conspiracy to supply heroin.

The appellant was convicted at Acton Crown Court (Judge Worthington and a jury) on contravening section 43(b) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. A recommendation for deportation was made. An application for leave to appeal against sentence was refused.

Mr Stuart Shields, QC and Mr Adrian Fulford, assigned by Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Fabian Evans for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court prepared by Mr Justice Taylor, said that, while the appellant was in custody in Wormwood Scrubs prison, he asked to see the principal prison officer and had an hour-long conversation with him about his past case.

At trial the judge ruled against a submission that that officer's evidence about the appellant's disclosures during the conversation should not be admitted. The officer gave evidence that the appellant, unprompted, had effectively confessed to involvement in a deal concerning heroin worth £3,000.

The appellant admitted asking to see the officer but that was simply because he had been told that, on the officer's orders, he could not go to chapel. The appellant denied making any confession.

The basis for the unsuccessful attempt to exclude the officer's

evidence was privilege or public interest on the ground that the officer was sought because the appellant wished to pursue a legal aid problem as he had not obtained satisfaction from the prison legal aid officer.

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Tributes to Lord Justice Lawton

Lord Justice Lawton

Lord Justice Lawton presided in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) for the last time on November 28.

Mr Justice Michael Davies said in tribute that Lord Justice Lawton had sat in that court and its predecessor for over 25 years. His contributions to the substantive criminal law and to the art of sentencing were in part preserved for all time in the various Law Reports, and were second to none.

His extraordinary ability to dispose of business efficiently and speedily without any sacrifice of justice was known to all who had worked in the Criminal Appeal Office over the years, all who had appeared before him, and especially to all those who had sat with him.

Lord Justice Lawton had three months to serve in the Civil Division before his parole eligibility date. This was just an informal thank you to Lord Justice Lawton for his partnership in crime. If any judge was irreplaceable, he was that judge.

Mr Barry Hudson QC, on behalf of the number of eminent practitioners who had come to court for this informal farewell, said that without any doubt Lord Justice Lawton would go down as a landmark of his generation. His Lordship had chaired the Criminal Law Revision Committee and had had wide influence.

Master Thompson, Registrar of Criminal Appeals, said that, as on many past occasions, he would hand up a document to Lord Justice Lawton. It was a list of more than 30 cases where his Lordship had given or was party to the judgment, which had been extracted by computer from the Criminal Appeal Reports.

The 300 cases would be enough to fill five out of 15 volumes since 1961. All the same, there was a small fraction of his Lordship's achievements in many fields.

The reports reflected his Lordship's mastery of criminal law and practice, not only that,

they contained guidelines in many sentencing situations where his broad understanding of human life was especially in demand.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that this occasion, the last on which he would preside in the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal, brought to an end a half-time life in crime - in contrast to that of a lawyer.

As was well known, his father had served in the prison service, and until his Lordship was 25 he had lived with his parents in officers' quarters at a variety of prisons.

When he decided to go to the bar he had wanted to separate himself from a life in crime, but fate had been against him. He had made attempts to go straight, but they never lasted very long.

Now the temptation had been put before him to go to Sheffield when he retired to try at first instance an important criminal case. He had been a great experience, being so long in crime.

Gillow v United Kingdom

Before G. Wiarda, President and Judges R. Ryssdal, Thor Vilhjálmsson, G. Lagergren, L. E. Pettit, Sir Vincent Evans and R. Macdonald
Registrar M.A. Eissen
(Case No 13/1984/85/132)
[Judgment November 24]

Decisions by the Guernsey housing authority to refuse Mr and Mrs Gillow permanent and temporary licences to occupy their house in Guernsey, as well as the conviction and fining of Mr Gillow, constituted interference with the exercise of the applicants' right to respect for their home as guaranteed under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Those interferences were not "necessary in a democratic society" as the manner in which the housing authority exercised its discretion in the applicants' case was disproportionate to the legitimate aim of promoting the economic well-being of the island.

Article 8 of the Convention provides: "1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence."

"2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

In April 1956 Mr Gillow was appointed director of the States of Guernsey Horticultural Advisory Service and moved to Guernsey with his family. In 1957, he bought a plot of land on Guernsey, on which he built a house called "Whiteknights". At that time, the applicants had, under the Housing Control (Guernsey) Law 1958 and that they retained ownership of the house and let it to persons approved by the housing authority.

The applicants subsequently decided to return to and live on Guernsey. However, they were informed by the authority that they had lost their residence qualifications by virtue of the Housing Control (Guernsey) Law 1958 and that they required a licence from the authority to occupy their house.

All their licence applications were rejected, and they were prosecuted for unlawful occupation of their property. They finally sold the house in April 1980.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a friendly settlement, the European Commission of Human Rights drew up a report establishing the facts and stating its opinion as to whether or not the facts found disclosed a breach by the United Kingdom of its obligations under the Convention.

In its report of October 3, 1984, the Commission concluded that there had been a breach of article 8 of the Convention and of article 1 of the Convention's first protocol (unanimously), but not of article 6 (10 votes to one) or of article 14 (unanimously) of the Convention.

The Commission referred the case to the Court in December 1984.

In its judgment the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

At alleged violation of article 8 the Court observed that the Government of the United Kingdom had no longer disputed before it the existence of a violation of article 8. It nonetheless considered that the responsibilities assigned to it extended to pronouncing on the non-contested allegation of a violation of article 8.

Although the applicants had been absent from Guernsey for 19 years, the court found that, in the circumstances, they had retained sufficient continuing links with "Whiteknights" for it to be considered their home, for the purposes of article 8, at the time of the disputed measures.

Following the enactment of the Housing Law 1969 - which was not amended on this point by the Housing Law 1975 - the applicants were obliged to seek a licence to occupy "Whiteknights" because, as a consequence of the change in the law, they had lost their residence qualifications.

In the Court's opinion, the fact that, on pain of prosecution, they were obliged to obtain a licence to live in their own home in 1975, the refusal of the licence applied for, the institution of criminal proceedings against them for unlawful occupation of the property and, in Mr Gillow's case, his conviction and the imposition of a fine, constituted interference with the exercise of the applicants' right to respect for their home.

The applicants alleged that the housing laws were immigration laws in disguise which were outside the legislative powers of the States of Guernsey. The Court observed, however, that those laws were duly sanctioned by the Sovereign in accordance with the normal legislative procedure, registered in the records of the Island of Guernsey and published. There could accordingly be no doubt as to their constitutional validity and accessibility.

The terms of the housing laws left the housing authority a certain degree of discretion, a discretion which was not in itself inconsistent with the requirements of foreseeability, provided that the scope of the discretion and the manner of its exercise were indicated with sufficient clarity, having regard to the legitimate aim of the measure in question, to give the individual adequate protection against arbitrary interference.

In the present case, the Court found that the scope of the discretion, coupled with the provision for judicial control of its exercise, was sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Convention inherent in the expression "in accordance with the law".

Although the statistics supplied both by the Government and by the applicants disclosed that the population and housing situation could be said to have improved in Guernsey in some respects, that did not alter the fact that the island was very limited in area.

It was therefore legitimate, in the Court's opinion, for the authorities to try to maintain the population within acceptable limits and also to show a certain preference for persons with strong attachments to the island or engaged in essential employment.

The court thus concluded that the relevant legislation was designed to promote the economic well-being of the island, and did not find it established that the legislation pursued any other purpose.

Was the action taken against the applicants "necessary in a democratic society"? The notion of necessity implied a pressing social need, and the measure employed had to be proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued. In addition, the scope of the margin of appreciation enjoyed by the national authorities would depend not only on the nature of the aim of the restriction but also on the nature of the right involved.

In the instant case, the economic well-being of Guernsey had to be balanced against the applicants' right to respect for their home, a right which was fundamental to the individual's personal security and well-being. The importance of such a right to the individual had to be taken into account in determining the scope of the margin of appreciation allowed to a government.

The obligations imposed on the applicants by the housing laws to seek a licence to occupy their house complied with those principles.

The Court considered that the Guernsey legislature was better placed than the international community to assess the effects of any relaxation of the housing controls. Furthermore, when considering whether to grant a licence, the housing authority could exercise its discretion so as to be proportionate in a particular case.

It followed that the statutory

obligation imposed on the applicants to seek a licence to live in their "home" could not be regarded as disproportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

There had accordingly been no breach of article 8 as far as the terms of the contested legislation were concerned.

There remained, however, the question whether the manner in which the housing authority exercised its discretion in the applicants' case - refusal of permanent and temporary licences, and referral of the matter to the law officers with a view to prosecution - corresponded to a pressing social need and, in particular, was proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

Against the background of the population and housing situation on the island, the court considered that insufficient weight was given to the applicants' particular circumstances.

The applicants had built "Whiteknights" as a residence for themselves and their family. At that time, they possessed residence qualifications and continued to do so until the Housing Law, so that during their occupancy they were entitled to occupy the house without a licence.

The property was Mr and Mrs Gillow's place of residence for two years before they left Guernsey in 1960. Thereafter, they had retained ownership of the house and left furniture there. By letting it over a period of 18 years to persons approved by the housing authority, they contributed to the Guernsey housing stock.

On their return in 1979, they had no other "home" in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. "Whiteknights" was vacant and there were no prospective tenants.

As for the refusals of the temporary licences, the decisions of the housing authority were, despite the granting of certain periods of grace, even more striking. "Whiteknights" needed repairs after 18 years of rented use, with the result that it could not be occupied in the meantime by anyone other than the applicants.

The Court therefore concluded that the decisions by the housing authority to refuse the applicants permanent and temporary licences to occupy "Whiteknights", as well as the conviction and fining of Mr Gillow, constituted interferences with the exercise of their right to respect for their home which were disproportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

There had accordingly been a breach of article 8 of the Convention as far as the particular circumstances of the applicants' case was concerned.

2. Alleged violation of article 1 of the first protocol

By a letter of October 10, 1984, the Government informed the court - while expressing their profound regret for doing so at a late stage - that the United Kingdom had not extended the application of Protocol No 1 to the Bailiwick of Guernsey in accordance with article 4 of this protocol, which stipulates:

"Any high contracting party may at the time of signature or ratification or at any time thereafter communicate to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe a declaration stating that the provisions of the present protocol shall apply to such of the territories or international relations of which it is responsible as are named therein..."

The Court noted first that the letter was not couched in the form of a preliminary objection. However, the existence of a declaration under article 4 was a matter for examination *ex officio* by the court since it concerned the very applicability of Protocol No 1 to the island of Guernsey.

According to a statement issued by the Government of the United Kingdom on October 16, 1990 and communicated to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the same date, the island of Guernsey should be regarded as a "territory for the international relations of which the United Kingdom was responsible" for the purposes of article 4, and

that practice had been followed with regard to treaties concluded within the framework of the Council of Europe, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

It thus resulted from the text of article 4 that an express declaration was required for the application of Protocol No 1 to the island of Guernsey, but no such declaration had been made.

The court accordingly found that article 1 of Protocol No 1 was not applicable in the present case and that therefore it had no jurisdiction to entertain the applicants' complaint under that provision.

3. Alleged violation of article 14 in conjunction with article 8

The issue of discrimination alleged did not relate to a measure taken in exercise of the housing authority's discretionary powers, but to the preferential treatment accorded by the 1975 Housing Law to specified groups of persons who did not need a licence to occupy a house, namely those with strong attachments to the island and the owners of houses over a certain rateable value.

With regard to the first group, the court had already held that the preferential treatment was legitimate for the purposes of article 8, paragraph 2 of the Convention, and saw no cause for arriving at a different finding under article 14.

As to the introduction of rateable-value limits, that reflected, in the opinion of the Court, the Government's desire to exclude from the control of the housing authority the small percentage of expensive houses (10 per cent) likely to be sought after by better-off persons not considered to be in need of protection, while providing necessary protection for tenants of more limited means who had strong connections with Guernsey.

The Court therefore found that there was no breach of article 14, taken in conjunction with article 8.

4. Alleged violation of article 6 paragraph 1 of the Convention

The appeal lodged by Mrs Gillow with the Royal Court against the refusal of the housing authority to grant a licence to occupy their home, was a civil right within the meaning of article 6, and the prosecution of Mr Gillow involved the determination of a criminal charge. Article 6 was therefore applicable in those two respects.

With regard to the civil proceedings, the court noted that the requirement of a lawyer to lodge an appeal before a higher court was a common feature of the legal systems of several member states of the Council of Europe.

It was true that in the applicants' case their lawyer did not properly perform his duty. Nonetheless, the Royal Court entertained the appeal even though it had been lodged out of time.

Finally, the Court did not see how the applicants' right of access to court had been interfered with by the refusal to allow them to occupy their house pending the appeal.

As to Mr Gillow's prosecution for unlawful occupation, the decision of the magistrate not to adjourn the criminal hearing was not open to criticism. On the facts, the refusal to allow Mr Gillow access to the tape recording of the first instance proceedings had not resulted in any unfairness, the registrar having checked the transcript and found it to be accurate.

The Court also rejected the applicants' complaints regarding the impartiality of the Royal Court.

It was held that there had been no violation of article 6 on those counts, and further that it was not necessary to examine various other complaints concerning the Royal Court, which had not been pursued at the hearings.

5. Application of article 50

The Court decided that the question whether the applicants should be granted just satisfaction under article 50 of the Convention was not yet ready for decision, and reserved the matter.

that practice had been followed with regard to treaties concluded within the framework of the Council of Europe, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

It thus resulted from the text of article 4 that an express declaration was required for the application of Protocol No 1 to the island of Guernsey, but no such declaration had been made.

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Gordon Burn peers into the eye of the storm breaking over Higgins

Hurricane Alex is blowing himself out



Alex Higgins has always been burdened with a sense of his own genius. It is a word that rolls off his tongue as casually as the explosives which have won him a place in the heart of his loyal public ("My people" as he calls them) and consistently dismayed the more upwardly mobile members of the snooker establishment. "Nobody's as fast as me, nobody's as attractive as me to watch. I'm the best player who's ever played the game." That was Higgins's boast as long ago as 1972 when, at the age of 23, he became the youngest world snooker champion ever.

His problem is that behaviour which was tolerable, even endearing, in a young man making his way in the world is embarrassing, and not infrequently shaming, in somebody on the threshold of early middle age. Higgins's self-image and how he is seen by growing numbers of the public are increasingly at odds with each other. "Sometimes he'll arrive with a packet of bacon and say: 'Will you cook this for me?' When he stands there with that little-boy look on his face you can almost forgive him everything," Alex's estranged wife, Lynn, said recently.

It is an indication of how far adrift "the People's Champion" has become from reality that he believes it is a trick he can pull off in front of several million viewers on television. The day after he had been given a black eye in a late night club brawl over money, Higgins slipped into his lovely room, reassured the home TV audience that he had been involved in a riding accident. This Wednesday, two days after he had been accused of hitting the WPSA's tournament director, he emerged from the depths of "Hurricane Alex" in a sheepskin-and-leather get-up that was clearly meant to make him look like a cuddly Muppet character.

Only he, apparently, is unaware that he is fooling hardly anybody, and that "genius" even genius dulled by a prodigious intake of alcohol and under-the-counter drugs — is no excuse for petulant and thuggish behaviour. Nowadays Higgins is regarded by many of those inside the game not merely as a minor irritant but as somebody to be avoided at all costs.

His practice partner in the early days of the world championships this year was Stephen Hendry, aged 17, the Scottish player, who was immediately whisked back to Edinburgh when he was eliminated in the first round. "It's a big, bad world we live in and it can be dynamite... you can't be too careful," Hendry's manager said. The following day Higgins was to be found moping round a hotel on the outskirts of Sheffield — the only hotel in the city which had been prepared to take him — looking bored. He did not have another match for two days and he could go home but what was the point? he said, draining another champagne cocktail. The house was big and empty and there was no one there.

Britain set out on the hilly road to success

The first steps on the muddy path to re-establishing British cross-country runners as the best in the world need to be taken in Gateshead this weekend. For it is an anaerobicism that, while British track and field has flourished to an enviable extent in the last decade, British, particularly English, domination of the cross-country world has evaporated like sweat on a winter's afternoon.



Tim Hutchings: promoting the European squad system

England's build-up to be monitored

The Rugby Football Union, after considering a report from Michael Weston, their England World Cup squad manager, have formed a World Cup committee to oversee the team's progress in the build-up to the competition in Australia next May.

Britain's women bear the brunt

Britain must win a play-off tomorrow morning, possibly against The Netherlands, if they are to stay in the first division of the new European Cup competition for women. With only Jo Durie missing from the strongest possible line-up, Britain have been beaten in turn by what was almost West Germany's fourth team and then, yesterday, by a French reserve team.

RACING RESULTS

SANDPARK	
1.00 (2m) 1. NORTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 2. SOUTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 3. WEST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 4. EAST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 5. CENTRAL GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 6. NORTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 7. SOUTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 8. WEST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 9. EAST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 10. CENTRAL GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100)	1.00 (2m) 1. NORTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 2. SOUTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 3. WEST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 4. EAST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 5. CENTRAL GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 6. NORTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 7. SOUTH GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 8. WEST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 9. EAST GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100) 10. CENTRAL GOCCELOW (J. Brown, 7-12, 2, 100)
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CRICKET

West Indies continue where they left off	
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Football

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GOLF

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Boxing

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Table Tennis

Pitch battle	
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Peacock's match

Boxing president	
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Boxing president

Boxing president	
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CHOICE

Peter Davalle



Hitler reviews his troops: The Thomas TM series TM

CHOICE

image? The knowledge that disputation will continue long after the jury of 500 viewers have returned their verdicts, will tend to lessen the significance of the "trial" as a trial, but the list of litigants rounded up for the hearing is impressive.

● Best of the rest: the re-run of Jeremy Isaacs' monumental documentary series *The World at War* (Channel 4, 7.15pm), Ken Loach's rough-grained tear-jerker *Kes* (BBC2, 3.00pm), and *The Natural World*, a veritable A to Z of the elephant (BBC2, 7.15pm).

P.D.

BBC 1

6.00 *Cosplay, 10.45 Open University, 1.05 Ceefax.*
7.00 *Film: Once Upon a Time in the West (1968) starring Gary Grant and Ginger Rogers. Comedy drama about a radio correspondent in wartime Vienna who saves a gold-digging showgirl from her Nazi husband. Directed by Sergio Leone.*

7.50 *Schools Press introduced by Ray Moore. Highlights from the three-day event held at the Royal Albert Hall in June.*

8.40 *Championship Snooker. Frames one to seven in the final of the Tennents Scottish Open.*

9.15 *International Bridge Club. Coverage of the Canberra Cruise's World Bridge Trophy. Introduced by Jeremy James.*

9.45 *Crickets: Second Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the second day play.*

10 *NewsView with Maira Stuart and Sue Carpenter.*

50 *Saturday Review. Edited by Russell Davies. Film: Red Dawn. Midnight, the story of black American jazz musicians in Paris during the 1950s. Russell Davies talks to Bernard Taverner who wrote the screenplay; Dexter Gordon who stars; and Herbie Hancock who composed the score; Theodor Reichman, director of world stage premiere of Cole Porter's screen musical, High Society, at Leicester's Haymarket Theatre; and Nicholas Richardson, Stephen Rae, and Trevor Eve.*

West Coast Story. The first of three programmes about the music of California.

Film: Detective (1965) starring Nathalie Baye and Johnny Hallyday. A tough-as-nails thriller about a detective who continues on a murder case that lost him his job. He returns to the hotel where the crime took place and observes the other guests in order to solve the mystery. Directed by Jean-Luc Godard. (subtitled)

Film: Ashbyville' (1966) starring Eddie Constantine, Anna Karina, and Alain Tamiroff. A humorous tribute to the American gangster films following the style of a super detective, Lenny Caution, who travels space to a city ruled by an all-knowing computer in order to track down a Professor Von Braun. Directed by Jean-

PRC 2

8.55 **TV-am** Introduced by Richard Keys. Weather at 6.55; news at 7.00; and sport at 7.10.

9.30 **The Wildlife Club** Includes a visit to London Zoo and guests, pop group Doctor and the Pops.

9.25 **No 73.** Fun and games for the young in 11.00 Knight Rider. Michael Knight is on the trail of a forger.

9.00 **World's Best.** Ian and Jimmy reveal the week's football news.

9.30 **International Athletics.** Coverage of McRide's Challenge Course.

10 **Hikes.** Ponch and Bobby investigates pair of illegal weapons hijackers 2.15

10.15 **John Alkonon** is the harassed form master of an unruly class (r)

4.5 **International Boxing** from Lathmere Leisure Centre, London. Introduced by David Davies. The lightweight bout between Tony Bout between Tom Karczalek and Ford Finball features a welterweight contest between Rocky Kelly and Terry Brown; and a cruiserweight contest featuring Sammy Reeson and Bob Smith.

5 **Results Service.**

6 **News with Anne Leachars.**

5 **Blockbusters.**

6 **The A-Team.** The final episode of the three part story and Murdoch recruits Frankie Santana to help him free his three colleagues.

7 **A lightening bolt** at what might happen when boy meets girl.

5 **Beeble's About.** Jeremy Beedle plays practical jokes on unsuspecting members of the public. The Price Is Right. Game show.

News and sport.

Unnatural Causes: Reporter, Sir Richard Stephens, John Ceter and Ann Mitchell star in this tale of a pair of barbers with murder in mind, as has loved, they're charity. (Circle)

LWT News headlines followed by Film Stripes (1981) starring Bill Murray, Harold Remis, and Warren Oates. Comedy about a platoon sergeant who instill discipline into a group of raw and regretful recruits. Directed by Ivan Reitman.

Dignace at Work. Richard Dignace in concert.

Spectral Speed. A gold bullion robbery is folloed by the Squad, and the

Director of the thwarted gang hires a hit-man to kill Anderson.

BBC1, at 7.15pm

BBC 1

6.55 *Play School.* 9.15 *Morning Worship.* 9.35 *Four of four* musées from the Parish of St Martin, Oxford.

10.00 *Asian Mosaic.* 10.30 *Ideas Unlimited.* (c) 10.55 *Buongiorno Italia!* Lorenza Lazzarini. (c) 11.20 *Lyn* Lister-Jones. *Evening Yoga.* (c) 11.30 *Parent Programme.* (c) 11.45 *Tales from the Street.* (c)

12.10 *Saturday Eccentrician Kitchen* adapted for the hearing impaired 12.35 *Farming.* A preview of the *Antiques Show.* 12.58 *Weather.*

1.00 *This Week Next Week.* Is America going out on a limb with Caspar Weinberger.

2.00 *EastEnders.* (c) (Ceefax)

3.00 *Championship Snooker.* Frames 15 to 21 of the first of the *Tennents UK Championship.*

5.10 *Domesday.* Part two of the five-programme series with Robin and presented by Michael Wood. Tells the story of England and the English. Among the places he visits is a small farm town which has been run by generations of the same family since at least the end of the 13th century.

5.50 *David Copperfield.* Episode eleven and David has fallen in love with the daughter of his employer.

7.20 *Liteline.* Cliff Michelmore from People Pillbox with the latest charity news and Paul Heiney appeals on behalf of the *Mersyalside Council* for the *Mersey Seaside*.

8.30 *News with Moira Stuart.*

9.00 *Songs of Praise* from the parish church of St John the Baptist, Gtoucester. (Ceefax)

10.15 *Twenty Years of the Two Ronnies.* Highlights from two decades of the comic duo's partnership between Messrs Barker and Corbett. (Ceefax)

11.05 *Championship Snooker.* The concluding session of the first of the *Tennents UK Championship.*

12.10 *The Singing Detective.* Part three of Dennis Potter's six-episode film with music starring Michael Gambon as Philip Marlow. (Ceefax)

1.00 *News with Moira Stuart.*

1.30 *Everyman: The Miracle of Intervale Avenue.* A profile of a small Jewish community who worship in a synagogue situated in the depressed Bronx district of New York. (c)

2.00 *Championship Snooker.* The closing frames of the first of the *Tennents UK*

Channel 4 (7.1

ITV/LONDON

6.55 TV-am begins with *Sunday Commem'g 7.00: Are You A Millionaire?* **7.00** *ITV News Extra*.

8.30 *David Frost on Sunday*. The guests are Barry Norman and John Peel.

9.25 *Wake Up London, 9.30* *Frangible Rock*. New series 10.00 *Krazy Kitchen*. A young person's guide to cooking.

10.15 *Against the Odds*. Pioneer aviator Amelia Earhart is the first subject in a series about people who achieved success against adversity. **10.30** *The Adventures of Black Beauty*. (7)

11.00 *Morning Worship*. Mass from St Clement's Church, Bangor. Co Down.

12.00 *Weekend World*. What will the Iran-Arab team mean to the future of the United States's leadership of the West? **1.00** *Police Five* **1.15** *The Smurfs*. (7)

1.30 *Getting On*. The removal of a sick old person to a home or a hospital without their permission an infringement of civil liberties?

2.00 *LWT News* headlines followed by *The Huzzan Factor*, Economist and country visitor, Robert Van de Weyer, predicts massive unemployment over the next 25 years but believes an obscure biblical text provides the solution.

2.30 *The Big Match Live*. Newcastle vs West Ham.

3.00 *The Return of the American*. An interview of three Victorian Librarians.

4.00 *Bulldozer*.

5.00 *Sunday Sunday*. Gloria Huxford's guests include Oon Apsley, Peter Wood and Vera Lynn.

5.30 *News with Anne Leitch*.

6.00 *Highway*. Sir Harry Vealls calls Lomond.

6.15 *Clash of Play with Liz Fraser and Lionel Linford*.

6.45 *Fitas Jones 2 (1978)* starring Roy Scheider. Martin Brody, police chief of New York, believes the resort is about to be menaced again by a deadly shark. Directed by Robert Swarcz.

7.15 *Room at the Bottom*. Comedy series (Oracle).

8.00 *The South Bank Show*. Christopher Bruce's new ballet, *Drum* is over, based on John Lennon's life.

8.15 *LWT News* headlines followed by *Symphonic*. The work of conductor Richard Hickox.

9.00 *Stop the World*. A documentary about six

elephant (BBC2, 7.1)

medium wave. Stereo on

Medium were only: Test
Match: second day of the
Second Test in Perth. Until
10.05am

11.05am
WVH Weather: 7.00 News
Aubrey: Bach
Branderburg Concerto
No 2: Max: Bach Collegium
Musium: Bach
Adagio and Allegro for
mechanical clock: Verno
Wind Soloists: Francis
L'Horigne de flor: LSO,
with John de Lancio, oboe,
Fahler (Ging heut'
Morgen ubers Feld:
Gagstad, soprano),
Dvorak (Scherzo capriccioso
p 68: Cleveland

Page 3

May we Borrow Your Husband?, and Claudio Lanzmann's film Shoah (Lanz: BBC Signs, with Thomas Trotter (organ)). The works include Mass in G minor, 1848, revised 1869, and An den heiligen Franziskus von Paula (A, Distrubed Environment: Bob Sherman reads the story by Philip O'Connor (London Philharmonic Orchestra (under Bryemyon Bychkov), with Dmitri Sitkovetsky (violin)). Part one. Verdi (L2

Radio 1

5 am/medium wave only. Test Match: third day of the Second Test between Australia and English in Perth. Until 10.05
5 On VHF: Weather. 7.00 News
5 Tudor Church Music: Taverner (Dum transisset Sabbatum: Tenis Scholars), Sheppard (Spiritus Sanctus precedens a throno) and Robert White (Lamentations of Jeremiah, for five voices: Clerics of Oxford), also organ pieces by Tallis
Wynne-Griffith: Program

Radio 3

Guest Organ student:
Philip Kenyon.
List and the Piano:
Leslie Howard plays
*Hungarian Rhapsodies No. 16, 17, 18, 19; Schmitt-
Chor aus dem entseesselten
Prometheus, Pastorale;*
Drei Liberaume Ab irato, S. 143, and Epithelium, S. 526
**BBC SO (under Pavo
Berglund), with Rocco
Friold (violin), Britten (Violin
Concerto), Vaughan
Williams (Symphony No 4)**
W F Bach Consort

um wave). Stereo on
Radio 1)

eases (Serious in
 enco: Athens Ensemble),
 eatries (Suite
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 eagner (Traume),
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 eouret (Symphonies de
 e la Grande
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 oy). **8.60 News**

Record Review: includes
 eholes Kanyon's guide
 e recordings of William
 e masses. With
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5.0

Special Release: Haydn
 ephony No 58:
 eastro armonico), Reger
 eations and Fugue on
 e in B

5.4

side. With Pankratov and
denin. Chorus and
chorus of Holy Theater

think about the death of
crucianism, by Dr Mark
Irvine, Fellow of St
Anthony's College, Oxford
concert: part two.
Shostakovich
Symphony No 5)
singing into the
Indie: Graham
Sweet on the works of
Robert Hass, the
American poet
Music Fyne: Tavernier
Solo and Concert in
the 19th made by Scottish
composer Robert
Carver. Includes his Mass,
"homme armé"
Bethoven: Brändis
start play the String
artet in F, Op 18 No 1

medium wave). Stereo on

Your Concert Choices:
Massenet (Scenes
alsaciennes, Suite No 7:
Monte Carlo National
Opera Orchestra), Saint-
Saens (Cello Concerto:
Lynn Harrell with Berlin
RSO), Dvorak
(Symphony No 4: LSO)
Music Weekly: with
Michael Oliver. Includes
David Matthews on
Beethoven's Missa
Solemnis, a conversation
with York Holler, and Lt
Col David Murray on
probioreich and the
pipes, and the great-great-
grandson of Carl Maria
von Weber pays a bicentary
tribute to his composer

form of free variations on a Beethoven theme, and

The Rath Lectures 1988:
Lord McCloskey
 Solicitor-General for
 Scotland, 1974-79 on
 rusting the Judges (r). The
 10th of his lectures is
 broadcast on Radio 3 next
 Wednesday.

**Music for Strife and
 sorrow:** with David
 Burgess, Iain MacFadyen,
 and Murray (pipes) and
 singer Mary Morrison

Enrok and Brahms:
 Peter Francis (piano),
 Ralph Krushbaum (cello).

WORLD SERVICE

er, 6.55 Weather, 7.00 News	
ce, 7.10 Today's ers, 7.15 On Your 7.48 In Perspective.	2.00
to Earth, 7.55 Travel, 8.00	
ce, 8.10 Today's ers, 8.15 Sport on 4. Yesterday in ment, 8.57 ers, Travel,	3.30
ce, 9.00 News, (Travel and e), With Bernard and his regular team entertainment review weeklies. With David	4.00
Week in nister, With Julia on, Political Editor of Mirror.	
Ends with Mad on and studio	5.00
Our Own urrent Life and around	5.25
Money Box ated by Louise	5.00 6.25
Active Backchat Weather	7.00

55 Shipping.

10. *My Dozen* (R)
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Desk (until 6.30) 7.00 News 7.09

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...saves; Morning Has	2.3
...broken (hymns); 6.55	2.3
...earlier: Travel	2.3
...saves. 7.10 Sunday	3.3
...saves. 7.15 April 14	3.3
...Salem; 7.45 Belts.	3.3
...10 Turning over New	4.0
...saves. 7.55 Weather; Travel	4.0
...saves. 8.10 Sunday	4.0
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...earlier: Travel	4.3
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...Travel)	6.15
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...of the Week.	7.00
...Howard selects	8.00
...series from last week's	8.00
...grammes	8.30
...art Island Discs.	8.30
...at Hawthorne, actor,	8.30
...presentation with Michael	8.30
...Kinison (a). 12.55	8.30
...World This	8.30

Shipping News; Gardeners' Vacation Time

over and Dr Jonathan
 interview with Brian
 of Honour: A Matter
 in Action. Presented
 Joshua Florence
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 giornino Italia!

V: on facing page.

Questions? Michael

Industry: 5.00
Best Aff. 5.30 Per

089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz
LBC:1152kHz/261m; VHF 97
MF 648kHz/463m.

5kHz/247m:VHF-90-
BBC Radio London:

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